

Mass times and intentions: 21st – 29th December 2024

Saturday	21	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	22	11.30 – Kathleen Tierney
Monday	23	No Mass
Tuesday	24	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Deidre Guinane intentions
		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 18.00 – In Honour of Infant Jesus of Prague
Wednesday	25	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 – The People of the Parish
Thursday	26	St John 10.00 – Scholastica Nakyajja RIP
Friday	27	The Holy Innocents 10.00 – Barney O’Neill RIP
Saturday	28	St Thomas of Canterbury 10.00 – Thanksgiving – Vas Family
		THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	29	11.30 – Anne Lovett – Anniversary

Tuesday to Saturday, after the Holy Mass,
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary

Mass Intentions / Offerings: Special envelopes are available at the back of Church. If you would like Mass offered on a particular date or anniversary, please let the Parish Priest know well in advance – the sooner the better. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mass Attendance last weekend: 239

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 869.55

Renovation fund: £ 356.00

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous week and I look forward, very much, to getting to know you all and working with you for the good of our Parish.

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDES
020 8500 3953

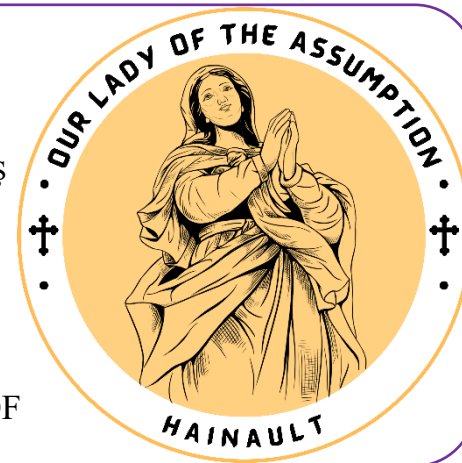
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 22nd December 2024

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. **90 – 92**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

522 – O come, O come, Emmanuel

355 – Let all mortal flesh keep silence

10 – Across the years there echoes still

686 – The angel Gabriel from heaven came (v. 1, 2, 3)

187 – The Servant King

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday is the fourth and last Sunday of Advent. Our journey of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus is almost complete; but not just yet; we still have a few more days left! So, it is very fitting that this Sunday we encounter Mary just after she has been called and asked to be the Mother of Jesus. Having recovered and caught her breath after hearing God’s plan for her, Mary does not sit quietly and wonder what this is all about. The gospel begins with a journey. Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to visit her cousin Elizabeth. There is a sense of urgency and excitement about this; how could Mary possibly keep this amazingly good news to herself. She had to tell somebody what had just happened to her!

Neither Mary nor Elizabeth were wealthy, powerful, famous or influential. They both came from two small insignificant villages; Mary

lived in Nazareth and Elizabeth lived in a town in the hill country of Judah. Yet it is in these two unimportant towns and through these two poor, but faithful women that God decided to fulfil the ancient Promise and Covenant: John the Baptist, the Herald, and Jesus, the Messiah, will be born. God is entering our world in an altogether new and radical way. Jesus will not be born in a temple, a palace or in Jerusalem, the holiest and most important city in Israel; but in Bethlehem in absolute poverty.

When Jesus begins his public ministry, he does so with these prophetic words: 'I have come to bring the Good News to the Poor.' Having being born poor in a stable himself; he comes to share God's preferential love of the poor with the world.

In a few days, we will celebrate Christmas Day and the beginning of the Christmas Season, which lasts twelve days. We will recall that Mary and Joseph were homeless and took shelter in a stable. Their first visitors were not kings, queens, the powerful or the wealthy. The first people to see Jesus where the poorest of poor just like them; the shepherds. In Jesus, they saw someone they recognised; someone just like them; someone who would later say, I am the Good Shepherd.

One poet has written, that God must be allowed to surprise us. Through the birth of Jesus, God really surprises us. How God chose Mary and Jesus' own birth reveal to us the real character of God. God chooses those the world thinks as worthless as being priceless. The poor family of Nazareth; Mary, Jesus and Joseph are the ones through whom God breaks into our world this Christmas and every Christmas; today and every day.

Amen!

Supporting Our Parish Priest

Easter and Christmas are the two times in the Church year when our offerings directly support our parish priest Fr. Tarciziu. As we celebrate this season of giving, we invite you to show your appreciation for Fr Tarciziu's faithful guidance and service throughout the year. Donations can be made on 24/25 December via the general offertory baskets, contactless payments, bank transfers or standing orders (indicating that the donation is specifically for the Christmas offertory or Fr. Tarciziu. Gift aid envelopes should be dated 25th Dec 2024). If you have signed up to Gift Aid please remember to include your gift aid number (or name & address) so that the Church can benefit from an additional 25% tax refund. The parish committee thank you for your generosity and support.

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came to our Parish Christmas Celebration last Sunday in the Parish Hall. Thank you for all your kind donations of food, drink and offerings. It was such a beautiful occasion and so well attended – a time to get to know each other better and strengthen our Parish community. Please watch out in our Newsletter for news of more gatherings planned for the New Year and Easter.

Carols – 5.30pm – Tuesday 24th December

On Christmas Eve, I invite you to join us half an hour earlier to celebrate the joy of this holy night by singing carols together. Let us lift our voices in praise and prepare our hearts for the Nativity of Our Lord. We look forward to sharing this special moment with you!

Merry Christmas

On the occasion of the Nativity of Our Lord, I wish you a blessed Christmas filled with peace, joy and love! May the light of the Christ Child guide your steps, strengthen your faith and fill your hearts with hope. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with health and spiritual blessings!

Confirmation Programme for 2024/25

Application forms for Confirmation Programme for 2024/25 are now available at the back of the church. You need to have the following to be eligible for the programme:

- live within the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Hainault
- your child needs to be at least in Year 9 at school (14 years old and above)
- practising Catholic family in this parish (baptised Catholic, goes to church regularly and receive the sacrament of Communion and Reconciliation); or reference from previous parish priest if you're new to our church community.

Session will be every Saturday at 10.00am, starting on the **11th January 2025**. Please hand in your completed application form to Fr. Tarciziu no later than 5th of January 2025.

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Sundays in Advent

Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30

Tuesday, 24th December

18.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wednesday, 25th December

10.00 – CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, 26th December

10.00 – St John

Sunday, 29th December

Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family

Wednesday, 01st January

10.00 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God