## Mass times and intentions: 28th December 2024 – 5th January 2025

Saturday	28	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	29	11.30 – Anne Lovett – Anniversary
Monday	30	No Mass
Tuesday	31	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Bernard Edward White and His Wife Pauline
Wednesday	01	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 10.00 – Special intention (Michael)
Thursday	02	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen 10.00 – Fr. Denis Hall - Anniversary
Friday	03	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 10.00 – Paula Hutchinson - Anniversary
Saturday	04	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Roland and Madeleine Selvini RIP
		THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	05	11.30 – Maria and Joachim

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

**Mass Intentions / Offerings:** Special envelops 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: 232

Offertory Collection last weekend: £807.17

**Mass Attendance for Christmas: 416** 

Offertory Collection for Christmas: £ 2033.44

Renovation fund: £158.00

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

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# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – 29th December 2024

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 105 – 109

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

147 – Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you

263 - Holy Virgin, by God's decree

S3 – Gifts of bread and wine, gifts we've offered

358 – Let there be love shared among us

80 – Bind us together, Lord

#### Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we gather around the Holy Family; Mary, Joseph and Jesus. It is through this poor family that God's love for each of us and the whole world is revealed and experienced. God did not come to us in power, glory, wealth or majesty. God chose to come close to us and become one of us through Mary who said 'Yes' when she was asked to be the Mother of Jesus. When Joseph was uncertain what to do, he heard these words of hope and encouragement: 'Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus.'

We often forget that Joseph was also called by God and he too said 'Yes'. Jesus their Son 'is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Jesus is the face and voice of God. Jesus comes to bring the Good

News to the Poor. Jesus is the Light of the World, the Bread of Life and the Good Shepherd. He will become the Suffering Servant who will give his life for us. Through his suffering and wounds, we are healed. Through his life, death and resurrection, we are given the precious gift of everlasting life.

Today is also a special time for us to remember and celebrate our own sacred families. It is a day to recall and acknowledge from where we come, where we first learnt to love, share and say sorry. We don't get to choose our families; we experience them as they are. There are no perfect families, only the ones into which we are born.

An Irish poet once said, that 'God is in the bits and pieces of every day.' If we look and are attentive, we will find and experience God in the bits and pieces of the everyday events of our family life. In our family, despite the rough and tumble of daily life, we are surrounded by people who love us, nurture us, sustain us and are there for us when we need them the most. There are also times when we do and say the wrong things to those who are closest to us. Challenging as it may be, these times offer us the opportunity to say sorry and offer them the healing hand of reconciliation and forgiveness.

As Pope Francis reminds us: 'If we could say Please, Sorry and Thank You more in our families, how happier places our homes would be.'

Today, as we celebrate the Holy Family of Nazareth, let us also remember and pray for all families that are experiencing pain and difficulties. Through our prayers, may they know and feel the loving protection of Mary, Joseph and their Son, Jesus Christ, the Holy Family.

#### Amen!

## Thank you

From the depths of my heart, I want to thank each of you for your generosity and support during this holy season of Christmas. Whether you contributed with gifts, helped organise the celebrations, or offered financial support, every gesture has been a blessing and a source of joy.

I am deeply grateful that, through your dedication and kindness, we were able to celebrate the birth of our Lord in such a beautiful and meaningful way. May God reward your goodness a hundredfold and fill your homes and hearts with peace, health and love. Thank You!

# The Epiphany of the Lord will be on 5th January 2025

The Epiphany is a celebration of Jesus' visit from the Magi, who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts symbolise different aspects of Jesus' life:

- Gold: Symbolises Christ's kingship
- Frankincense: Symbolises his divinity
- Myrrh: Symbolises his future sacrifice and death on the cross

Holy Water will be available for you to take home for the traditional blessing of homes.

#### **Please Note**

We kindly remind everyone that the celebration of the Holy Mass is a sacred time for prayer and thanksgiving. Out of respect for the Eucharist, the celebrant, and your fellow parishioners, we encourage you to refrain from engaging in conversation during Mass and to remain until the final blessing and the conclusion of the closing hymn. Leaving early not only disrupts the prayerful atmosphere but also means missing the grace imparted in the final moments of the Mass. Let us honour this sacred time together with reverence and gratitude. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **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 **11<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. Please hand in your completed application form to Fr. Tarciziu no later than 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.