

Mass times and intentions: 22nd February – 02nd March 2025

Saturday	22	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	23	11.30 – Joseph and Albertina D'Cruz
Monday	24	No Mass
Tuesday	25	Feria 10.00 – John McDowell RIP
Wednesday	26	Feria 10.00 – Sylvia Culling RIP
Thursday	27	Feria 10.00 – Thanksgiving – D'Souza Family
Friday	28	Feria 10.00 – Beatrice Oghojafor
Saturday	01	St David, Bishop 10.00 – Lorna Lee Intentions
		EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Graham Miles RIP
Sunday	02	11.30 – The People of the Parish

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: 263

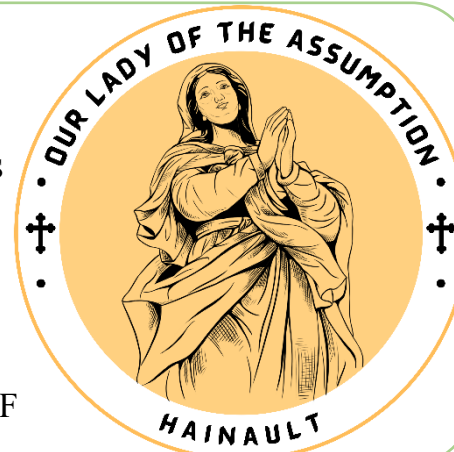
Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 794.81

Renovation fund: £ 191.10

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**

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23rd February 2025

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. **141-144**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
602 – Praise, my soul, the king of heaven! (v. 1, 2, 3)

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

678 – Take our bread, we ask you
663 – Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast
10 – Across the years there echoes still
399 – Love is his word, love is his way (v. 1, 3, 6, 7)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Liking something is easy enough; it doesn't ask too much of us. People like their own favourite biscuits or sweets. They prefer or like their favourite television programme. Loving something or someone is another matter altogether!

In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus asks us to love; not just or even our friends, but to love our enemies. Jesus knows from personal experience that those who are listening to him have more than enough enemies! This is not a reality that is particular to the time of Jesus!

Those whom we don't like and who do not like us are not limited to the gospels! Jesus is calling his listeners and us today to a very high standard of living indeed.

Those who follow Jesus, then and now are to love their enemies when the 'normal' world reaction is to seek revenge and hit back, whether verbally or physically.

Jesus calls us to a much higher standard. Jesus knows that this is very challenging; it's easy enough to love those who love us and who are nice to us. It's another thing altogether to love those who are our enemies, to bless them and even pray for them!

Some might say that what Jesus is asking us to do is impossible and even unreasonable! When faced with the literal demands of Jesus in the gospel, we might say: how can I love those who hit me? If someone takes my coat, why would I simply give them another one? What Jesus is asking us to do is simply unfair and not acceptable. Or is it?

During the horrors of World War II, along with millions of others, Fr. Maximillian Kolbe was sent to a concentration camp. When the soldiers wanted to kill another prisoner, Maximillian offered to take his place and to be killed instead of him. Before he was murdered, he said to the soldier, 'You may hate me, but you cannot stop me from loving you.'

Mahatma Gandhi spent his whole life working for the independence of India. He pioneered passive non-violent resistance. No matter what was done to him and his followers, they did not react with more violence or hatred. He said, 'If India attains her independence through violence, I will have nothing to do with it.' Sadly, because of his powerful example of loving his enemies, he was assassinated in 1948.

We are told that charity begins at home; so too does love. We are called to love those in our family with endless love even when and especially when we find this very hard to do!

Rather than react with anger, can we respond with love, forgiveness and compassion as Jesus asks us? We can't do this on our own; we need to stay close to Jesus and follow his radical example.

Love is the strongest and greatest power in a world that often seems to be filled with violence and hatred. The choice to love or to hate is our choice and decision.

In the evening of our lives, we will be judged on love alone. *Amen!*

Refreshments after Sunday Mass


I would like to invite you to join us for refreshments after the Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee, some biscuits and a chance to meet, socialise and get to know each other.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Thursday 27th February** at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Church Renovation Fund

There will be a 2nd collection after each Sunday Mass to help with the renovation of our Church. Any donation would be most welcome.

Standing order details:	Online via QR Code:
Account Name: Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 31019244	

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 24th May 2025

Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to join us, please contact Joyce Barroba on 07738 333632.

St John the Baptist, Wanstead Park Road, Ilford

Parishioners of St John the Baptist church in Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, would greatly value you remembering us in your prayers that our church may open again for a weekend mass even if only once a fortnight. We also want to pray that people learn to live in peace with their neighbours and other Faiths. If you are able, we would love anyone to join us saying the Rosary outside the church on a Saturday morning at 9.45am. Also, we would welcome you remembering us in your private prayers. God Bless.

*(St John the Baptist Parishioners Action Group,
Wanstead Park Road, Ilford)*