

Mass times and intentions: 22nd – 30th March 2025

Saturday	22	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – Alison Eagle RIP
Sunday	23	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	24	No Mass
Tuesday	25	The Annunciation of the Lord 10.00 – Peter Brian Hetherington RIP and the intentions of Betty Hetherington
Wednesday	26	Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent 10.00 – For the pilgrims of Holy Family Door of Mercy
Thursday	27	Thursday of the Third Week of Lent 10.00 – Debbie Maguire RIP
Friday	28	Friday of the Third Week of Lent 10.00 – Henry Horan RIP
Saturday	29	Saturday of the Third Week of Lent 10.00 – Mary Tighe RIP
		FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	30	11.30 – Neill Sullivan intentions

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary** – Wednesday & Thursday, after the Holy Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** – Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, after the Holy Mass

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: 273

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 728.99

Renovation fund: £ 302.63

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 ERDEŞ
020 8500 3953

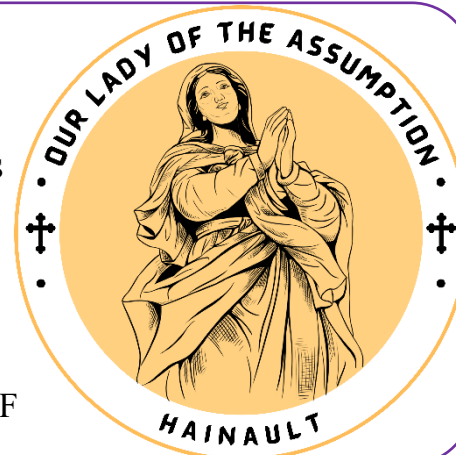
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 23rd March 2025

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 160-163

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

301 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

273 – I am the vine, you are the branches

401 – Water of life

10 – Across the years there echoes still

209 – God forgave my sin in Jesus' name

Dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus was a great story teller! He spoke to the people in ways that they were familiar with and understood. He spoke about farming, shepherds, wine, fishing and sowing seeds. Jesus spoke the language of the people of his time. Today, in our gospel is no different.

Bad things unfortunately happen to good people; it's a fact of life. At the time of Jesus, as some believed in the gospel, those who died at the hands of Pontius Pilate were great sinners. Jesus doesn't think so! But he does warn those who are self-righteous that they will suffer – unless they change and repent.

To illustrate this, Jesus offers the people and us today a parable; a farmer plants a fig tree in his vineyard. Even after three years of care, watering and maintenance, it produced no fruit whatsoever.

He asked one of his workers to dig it up and throw it away. The worker suggested another solution: *'Leave it one more year, give me time to dig around it; it may bear fruit next year, if not, then you can cut it down.'*

What could this possibly have to do with us today? Let's be honest; none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes; we say and do things that are wrong, that hurt others and break our friendship with God.

However, God does not dismiss or disown us; we are always given another chance to change, grow and improve. Who knows, we too might produce good fruit if we are given the time! (God has plenty of time!)

Jesus comes and accepts us as we are; he loves us not because we are perfect, but in the hope that we will change over the course of our lives and become perfect. If I were to wait until I was perfect to welcome Jesus it would never happen.

Jesus wants to be part of my life now, just as I am; with all my faults and with all my potential. Our God is a God of second chances; God never turns anyone away who can honestly say, *'Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.'* The message of today's gospel can be put into one simple word: Repent!

In the Old Testament we read, *'Lord, you have cast all my sins behind your back.'* When we sin and make a mistake, God neither remembers nor holds onto them. God simply offers us another chance to change, repent and improve our ways.

Lent encourages and challenges us not to sin, but when we do, we are given the chance to take our place among those whose lives are not perfect. We are loved sinners, the very ones Jesus came to embrace, forgive and love. Lent reminds that a second, third, fourth and fifth chance are just as valuable and needed as the first one.

Lent reminds us that God loves us just as we are; as sinners. To follow Jesus is not just about how to live, but how to live again, again and again with joy, faith and hope. Why? Because we are sinners who are loved and who are always given another chance to change, repent and produce good fruits!

Amen!

Our Lady of the Assumption Pilgrimage to Walsingham


- 24th May 2025 -

You are invited to join our Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham – where we will all become part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage. It will be a day of blessings and prayer to represent our Parish in Hainault. A coach will leave from outside our Church on the 24th May at 7am and will return at approx. 5pm. The cost will be £25.50 per person.

If you would like to join us and reserve your seat, please contact Joyce Barroba on 07738 333632. Thank you.

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	

Parish Mass Books

At our recent Parish Committee Meeting, it was decided that since our Parish Mass Books are no longer up to date with the new Lectionaries, we will continue using them only until Easter. Order of Mass Cards (an easy-to-follow helpful guide for all participants in the Mass) will be available. If you would like to follow the new Lectionary readings, you may do so by downloading the relevant app on your mobile phone or by purchasing a new Sunday Missal from CTS (Catholic Truth Society) or one of the other providers. Thank you.

Easter Raffle

Tickets for this year's Easter Raffle will be available from 29th March. We will have an Easter Hamper and various Easter Eggs as prizes. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. All profits will go to The Renovation Fund. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Coffee Morning on Easter Sunday. Thank you.

Spring Family Concert

Please join us for a Spring Family Concert on Sunday 30th March 2025 at 2.30pm at All Saints Church, Romford Road, IG7 4QD. Featuring Colomb Street 5 Wind Quintet and Take Note Ladies Vocal Sextet. Free admission – retiring collection. Interval refreshments – tea, coffee, cakes.