

Mass times and intentions: 29th March – 06th April 2025

Saturday	29	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	30	11.30 – Neill Sullivan intentions
Monday	31	No Mass
Tuesday	01	Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent 10.00–Jeremiah, Brandon, Gregory, Patrick-Francis RIP
Wednesday	02	Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent 10.00 – Margaret Smith – good health
Thursday	03	Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent 10.00 – Patrick Kelly RIP
Friday	04	Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent 10.00 – In Honour of The Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday	05	Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent 10.00 – Cosme and Maggie Vas RIP
		FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	06	11.30 – Thanksgiving for The Holy Trinity

- **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: 288

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 644.40

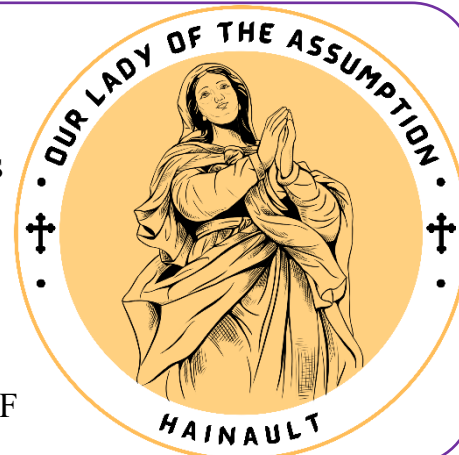
Renovation fund: £ 661

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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 30th March 2025

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 168-172

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
383 – Lord, Jesus Christ

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

77 – Because the Lord is my shepherd

101 – Bring flowers of the rarest

S2 – As I kneel before you

140 – Daily, daily, sing to Mary (v. 1, 3, 4)

Dear brothers and sisters,

We may have heard the phrase familiarity breeds contempt. This simply means that we can take for granted and become casual and even indifferent to what we are used to.

This applies as much to scripture as it does to anything else. When we come across a gospel reading or parable with which we are familiar, we can be tempted to switch off because we assume we know what it is about. The gospel today is one such parable; The Prodigal Son. This gospel is also known as The Prodigal Father. Why is this?

The word 'prodigal' means 'to waste' or 'to be wasteful'. So how does this apply to the gospel? The son is wasteful with his money, inheritance and more importantly with his father's generosity and love.

According to the older son, the father is wasteful with his love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness when his son returns. He doesn't feel his brother deserves to be welcomed home, loved or forgiven. Generally, we focus on the son who left his family wasted his money, got into trouble, had a change of heart, went home, said sorry and was forgiven. But maybe we should focus our attention on this prodigal and patient parent!

When his son demands half his inheritance, implying that his father is dead to him, his father does not object or refuse his request. He freely lets him go and does not stop him.

However, it must have broken his heart as he watched his son leave home. By the end of the story when the son is returning home, we are told that his father saw him from a long way off.

Clearly his father was watching and waiting for him to return. He never gave in or gave up on his son.

This most famous of parables tells us so much about God. God loves us so much that he freely lets us do what we want; we are given free-will.

But we have to accept the consequences of our actions. God doesn't stop loving us when we choose to walk away from him. Like the patient father in the gospel, God never gives in or gives up on us.

He watches, waits and longs for our return home. When we do return, we are greeted warmly with words, 'I love you with an everlasting love, you are precious in my eyes and I love you.'

We need to get the balance right when we are making our way through Lent. Yes, it is about us being honest and humble enough to realise and admit that we make mistakes and sin, like the son in the gospel.

But equally important for us is that we focus on God's love, mercy, forgiveness and compassion. If we can honestly say, Lord, have mercy on me a sinner, then God who is always waiting for us to come home will welcome us with open arms.

The constant invitation from God, the call of Lent and the challenge of this gospel to each of us is 'Come back to me with all your heart'.

Amen!

Our Lady of the Assumption Pilgrimage to Walsingham

- 24th May 2025 -


Thank you to all who have shown an interest in joining our Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Although there are still some seats left on the coach, these are filling fast. Therefore, to avoid any disappointment in securing your seat; please could you, by the latest Sunday 6th April, pay your coach money to Joyce Barroba.

As a reminder, here are the details: 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 have any questions or would like to reserve a 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.