

Mass times and intentions: 19th – 27th July 2025

Saturday	19	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Sunday	20	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	21	No Mass
Tuesday	22	St Mary Magdalene 10.00 – Anne Barron RIP
Wednesday	23	St Bridget of Sweden 10.00 – Fr. Angelus – intentions
Thursday	24	Feria 10.00 – Kelly Bassett – good health
Friday	25	St James 10.00 – Tom Lloyd RIP
Saturday	26	St Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10.00 – Barry Tighe RIP
		SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Betty McMahon RIP
Sunday	27	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: 240

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 688.35

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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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20th July 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

88 – Blest are the pure in heart

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

128 – Come, Lord Jesus, come (v. 1, 3, 5, 6)

80 – Bind us together, Lord

499 – My God loves me

175 – Follow me, follow me (v. 2, 3)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Hospitality is often praised as a beautiful human virtue—welcoming someone into your home, offering food, shelter, warmth. But today’s readings take us deeper. They show us that true hospitality is not just about what we do, but about whom we welcome - and how we open our hearts to the presence of God.

In the first reading, we meet Abraham, sitting by the oak trees of Mamre. He sees three strangers approaching. Without hesitation, he runs to greet them, invites them in, washes their feet, prepares a meal. Abraham doesn’t know that these strangers are messengers of God, a prefiguration of the Holy Trinity. His simple act of generosity becomes the setting for one of the most important revelations in his life: the promise of a son.

I will tell you a story. An old woman in a small village would always set one extra place at her Christmas table, “in case Jesus came.” Some thought it silly. But one bitter winter evening, a homeless man knocked. She welcomed him warmly, fed him, and said later, “Maybe it wasn’t Jesus - but He sent him.”

True hospitality is not just about actions - it’s about readiness of heart. Who do you welcome into your home? But more importantly, who do you welcome into your heart?

In the Gospel, Jesus enters the home of Martha and Mary. Martha does what any good host would - she prepares the food, sets the table, worries about the details. Mary, on the other hand, sits at Jesus’ feet and listens. Jesus doesn’t criticise Martha for serving, but He gently reminds her: “You are worried and distracted by many things... Mary has chosen the better part.” She chose presence over performance.

Imagine a mother preparing a perfect birthday party - cooking, cleaning, decorating. But at the end of the day, her child says, “Mom, you were so busy, you didn’t even sit with me.” She did everything for her child, but forgot to be with her child.

Isn’t that what happens to us? We do so much in our spiritual lives - church, volunteering, activities - but forget to sit in silence at Jesus’ feet and just listen.

In the second reading, St. Paul shares something profound: he rejoices in his sufferings for the sake of others. He sees pain not as punishment, but as participation in Christ’s redemptive work.

Think of a grandfather who watches over his grandchildren despite aching bones. Or a cancer patient praying daily for others from their hospital bed. Or a priest, exhausted, still listening patiently to confessions at the end of the day. That is love that suffers and gives, without counting the cost.

Are we willing to give of ourselves, even when it’s hard? Or only when it’s easy and comfortable?

Dear friends, I want to finish this homily with three clear invitations:

- Be like Abraham – Open your door and your heart. God may come to you in the form of a stranger, a child, or someone in need.
- Be like Mary – Don’t let busyness rob you of what matters. God wants your heart more than your to-do list.

- Be like Paul – Offer your life, even your pain, as a gift of love. You may be helping build the Kingdom in ways you can’t yet see.

And a final thought - A Simple Question for Your Heart: If Jesus came to your house today, would you be more worried about what you’re cooking - or what He is saying?

Let us not just serve Christ with our hands, but welcome Him with hearts wide open, like Abraham, like Mary, like Paul.

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession is available every Saturday during Adoration and Holy Rosary and on request on weekdays during Adoration and Holy Rosary after the morning Mass.

Join Our Sunday Team!

We have been blessed to see our parish grow - especially during big celebrations like Christmas, Easter, First Holy Communion and Confirmation! To keep everything running smoothly, we would love a few extra helping hands. Can you help with:

- **Welcoming** – greeting everyone with a smile and handing out hymn books
- **Ushers** – helping people find seats and easing congestion
- **Stewards** – guiding Communion in an orderly way
- **Church Cleaning** – keeping our church looking its best
- **Tea & Coffee** – serving refreshments after Sunday Mass
- **Choir** - join us to help with the celebration of the Mass

We are aiming to set up a rota or add to existing rotas, so even a little help goes a long way. If you would like to get involved, please email us at hainault@brcdt.org or fill in one of the forms on the table at the back of the Church and hand in to Fr. Tarciziu or leave it in the Sacristy.

Thank you!