

Mass times and intentions: 02nd – 10th August 2025

Saturday	02	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Matthew Procter – intentions
Sunday	03	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	04	No Mass
Tuesday	05	Feria 10.00 – Michael – thanksgiving
Wednesday	06	The Transfiguration of the Lord 10.00 – Adrianna – good health
Thursday	07	Feria 10.00 – Ann and Sue
Friday	08	St Dominic 10.00 – Josie and Seamus Gorman RIP
Saturday	09	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross 10.00 – David and Lorna – good health
		NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	10	11.30 – Algis and Alvydas RIP

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: 237

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 752.55

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous week
and I look forward, very much, to work with you
for the good of our Parish.**

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 03rd August 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
125 – Come down, O love divine (v. 1, 2, 4)

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

301 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise

663 – Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast

98 – Breathe on me, Breath of God

388 – Shine, Jesus, shine

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's liturgy offers us a powerful reflection on the meaning of life, the value of our labour, and the identity we are called to embrace in Christ. The readings challenge us with a fundamental question: *What are we living for? And what happens if we forget our soul in the process?*

In the first reading, the author of Ecclesiastes begins with a harsh and almost shocking statement: "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." He doesn't mean that life has no meaning, but rather that everything disconnected from God - our work, wealth, success - ultimately proves empty.

Imagine a man who builds a successful company over 40 years. He sacrifices family, health, prayer, and peace of mind. When he retires, his children put him in a nursing home and sell everything. He dies with a deep regret: he lost what mattered most.

This is what Ecclesiastes warns us about: not work itself, but the emptiness of a life lived without God.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells us: “Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.” This doesn’t mean we should ignore our responsibilities on earth, but that we should keep our hearts set on eternity.

To be Christian means to live in the world, but not for the world. Our true identity, Paul reminds us, is “hidden with Christ in God.” Think of a sunflower. It always turns toward the sun. That’s how our soul should be - constantly turning toward God, the source of light and life.

Paul also urges us to put off our old selves: anger, greed, lies, selfishness. Because in Christ, there is no division, no prejudice - “Christ is all in all.”

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a striking parable. A rich man has an incredible harvest. His barns aren’t big enough. So, he decides to build bigger ones and says to himself: “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, and be merry!” But God says to him: “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded of you.”

The issue is not his wealth, but his attitude. He made plans for everything... except for his soul. He lived as if God didn’t exist. He forgot that life is a gift, and that one day, we will be called to give an account of how we used it.

What Can We Learn?

We will not live forever. Our soul matters more than our bank account.

Work is good, but not if it blinds us. If we take everything too seriously, we can lose what truly matters: faith, rest, family, compassion.

God calls us to be good stewards. Wealth is a tool, not a goal.

Love and faith give life its value. Not cars, not diplomas, not titles - but kindness, forgiveness, service.

In a world where everyone urges us to “have more,” Jesus calls us to be more. When others build barns, you build a pure heart. When the world shouts, “Hoard!”, the Gospel says, “Share!” When the world says, “Live for yourself!”, Christ tells us, “Live in Me.”

Dear brothers and sisters, God doesn’t ask us to give up everything and live in poverty. But He does ask us to put things in their right place.

Let us care for our souls, work honestly, live with our hearts lifted to heaven, and love with sincerity. So that when God calls us, we will not hear, “You fool,” but rather: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

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.

Sunday Missals

Some Sunday Missals are now available at a cost of £20 each. Please ring Sheila on 020 8500 0073 if you would like one. Thank you.

You are All Invited to Celebrate our Parish Feast Day on Sunday 17 August 2025, after 11:30am Mass

Celebratory food and drinks contributions are very welcome. Please complete the form at the back of the Church letting us know what food/drinks contributions you will be bringing and leave it on the table or hand it to Jessica, Maria or Gizelle. Thank you all.

Knights of Saint Columba Holy Relic Tour

The Knights of Saint Columba are delighted to announce that between Friday 1st August and Sunday 10th August we will be touring the First Class Holy Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. Visiting Clacton, Kelvedon, Chelmsford (Blessed Sacrament), Eastwood, Basildon, Brentwood Cathedral, Hornchurch, West Ham, Elm Park and Chingford.

The Holy Relics will be available during periods of each day for private prayer and veneration. Next week we will announce the exact timings and venues as we build up to this remarkable opportunity to be close both physically and spiritually to these remarkable saints.