

Mass times and intentions: 23rd – 31st August 2025

Saturday	23	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Barry Tighe RIP
Sunday	24	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	25	No Mass
Tuesday	26	Feria 10.00 – Jackie Celik – good health
Wednesday	27	St Monica 10.00 – Joshua Mekako
Thursday	28	St Augustine 10.00 – Busari and Olusanya Families
Friday	29	The Passion of St John the Baptist 10.00 – Kevin Hays RIP
Saturday	30	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10.00 – Barney and Family
		TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Christiana Edeko – intentions
Sunday	31	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: 249

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 751.11

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 24th August 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

179 – For the healing of the nations

Responsorial Psalm:

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

302 – In bread we bring you, Lord, our bodies' labour

106 – Christ be beside me, Christ be before me

633 – Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

567 – Oh Lord, all the world belongs to you (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Word of God today leads us through a spiritual journey that is both demanding and full of hope. We receive three key messages: the universal call to salvation (Isaiah); the meaning of trials in our lives (Letter to the Hebrews); and the narrow gate through which we are called to enter (the Gospel).

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: “I come to gather nations of every language.” Salvation is not reserved for a small, privileged group. God wants all people to be saved. But here comes the real question: Do I recognise myself in this call? Or do I think that salvation is only for others - better, holier, more worthy than me?

God assures us: there is room for everyone. But entry is not automatic.

A wise priest once said: “At the end of our lives, God will not ask how much money we made or what position we held. He will ask only: Did you love? Did you forgive? Did you remain faithful?”

The Letter to the Hebrews gives us a difficult teaching: “The Lord disciplines the one he loves.” Discipline here does not mean punishment in the sense of destruction, but correction, guidance, growth. Like a father who trains his child, God allows us to pass through trials so that our faith may mature.

How many times have hardships brought us closer to Him? When life is easy, prayer often becomes weaker. But in suffering, our heart cries out to God. Trials become the place of encounter.

A believer once said: “In suffering, I learned two truths: how fragile I am, and how strong God is.”

The Gospel presents us with the image of the narrow gate. It is not enough to know Jesus on the surface. It is not enough to say: “I went to church, I heard the Word, I saw Him in the Eucharist.” We must allow faith to transform our lives.

Jesus warns: many will try to enter and will not be able. Why? Because the gate is narrow, and we cannot pass through with the heavy baggage we carry: pride, selfishness, resentment.

The gate to the Kingdom is not small because God wants to make life difficult. It is small because only a simple, humble heart can enter. Only the one who lays aside the burdens of sin can pass through.

Dear friends, today’s Word is both encouraging and challenging:

God calls everyone, but not to an easy or superficial faith.

Trials are not rejection, but a sign of God’s loving formation.

The narrow gate asks for renunciations, but beyond it lies true freedom.

The real question is: Which path am I walking? The wide, comfortable road, or the narrow and demanding way of the Gospel?

Let us ask for the grace not to settle for appearances of faith, but to choose each day the narrow way of love, forgiveness, and fidelity to God.

Amen.

Thank you!

Last Sunday we joyfully celebrated the feast day of our parish, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was truly a blessed day of prayer, fellowship, and love.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard to make this celebration possible: those who helped set up the tables and chairs in front of the church, those who brought food and drinks, your kind donations on the day of £256.63 and all who helped at the end for the ‘big tidy-up’. Thank you to all of you who stayed after the Holy Mass to share in the joy of our parish family celebration.

Through your generosity, dedication, and presence, you have shown that we are indeed one family united in Christ and under the protection of His Holy Mother. May God reward you abundantly with health, peace, and joy in your homes.

Mass cover during my absence

I would like to share with you, with joy, that in the coming days (1st - 12th September) I will travel to Romania to take part in my sister’s wedding. This is a moment of great joy for my family and also, for me, an opportunity to spend some time with my loved ones. As you know, a priest too, just like each one of you, sometimes needs a moment of rest and of returning to his family roots.

During my absence, another priest will be with you and will celebrate the Holy Masses. Please note that for the first week (2nd - 6th September) the schedule of the Mass will change slightly: instead of 10:00 am, it will be celebrated at 8:30 am.

Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers. I carry you all in my heart and in my prayer. Thank you!

First Holy Communion Programme 2025-2026

The Application and Consent forms for the First Holy Communion (FHC) Programme for 2025/26 are now available at the back of the church. You need to have the following criteria to be eligible for the programme:

- live within the parish of our Lady of Assumption, Hainault
- your child needs to be at least in Year 3 at school (7 years old and above)
- practising Catholic family (goes to church regularly for at least one year) in this parish; or a reference from your previous parish priest if new to our church community.

If you have any questions then please reach out to FHC catechists Anne D’Cruz, Marie Pinto and Gizelle Da-Cunha or email them on

fhc-hainault@brcdt.org

Please hand in your completed application and consent forms to Fr. Tarciziu no later than Sunday 21st September 2025.

The Programme will commence on Tuesday 23rd September 2025.