

**Mass times and intentions: 06<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 18.00 – Esther and Peter
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>07</b>	11.30 – The People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>08</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Suzanna Nathan RIP
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Liam Hayes RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Sr. Ugochinyere – thanksgiving
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>The Most Holy Name of Mary</b> 10.00 – Sr. Immaculata and her intentions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>St John Chrysostom</b> 10.00 – Barry Tighe RIP
		<b>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> 18.00 – Liam Hayes RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	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: 252**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 1067.63**

**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**

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDES  
020 8500 3953

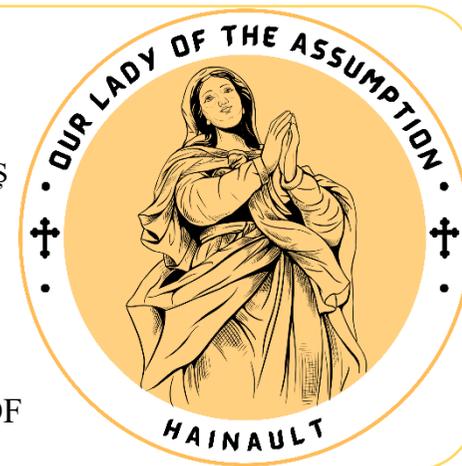
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**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass  
**209** – God forgave my sin in Jesus' name

**Responsorial Psalm:**

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

**496** – My God, and is thy table spread

**183** – Forth in the peace of Christ we go (v. 1, 3, 4, 5)

**71** – Be still and know that I am God

**227** – God's spirit is in my heart

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

Today, the Church offers us three readings that, at first glance, may seem different, but are united by a common thread: the wisdom to follow God wholeheartedly, with discernment and courage.

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, reminds us of the limits of human understanding: "Who can know God's counsel? Who can conceive what the Lord intends?" We are fragile, weighed down by many worries and distractions, but God gives us His Spirit to enlighten our steps. This shows us that following the Lord is not just about our own intelligence; we need wisdom from above, a light that allows us how to see things in depth.

In the second reading, from the Letter to Philemon, we see St. Paul putting this wisdom into practice. He writes to a friend about a runaway slave,

Onesimus, and asks not just for a legal resolution, but for a transformation of relationships: “receive him no longer as a slave, but as a beloved brother.” This is a lesson in how faith changes the way we see each other: beyond labels, social status, or past conflicts, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. This is what it means to live the Gospel.

Then comes the Gospel according to Luke, where Jesus challenges us with strong words: “If anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” Jesus is not calling us to despise our family; rather, He is teaching us that our love for God must come first so that all other loves can find their right order. He continues: “Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” And He speaks of counting the cost, like a builder who calculates resources before starting a tower.

What connects these three readings? Wisdom teaches us that the path to God requires more than emotion; it requires clarity and discernment. Paul’s example shows us that this path transforms our relationships: love becomes central, and even a former enemy or slave is received as an equal. And the Gospel reminds us that this choice is demanding; it requires letting go and making sacrifices. Discipleship is not about listening to beautiful words but about carrying our cross daily: forgiving, letting go of pride, choosing the good even when it is hard.

Let’s think of some concrete examples: consider family life. How often do we have to let go of our own desires for the good of the other? Or at work: sometimes honesty and integrity come at a cost, but they are the only way to remain faithful to Christ. This is our daily cross. Or think of life as a backpack: if you keep filling it without choosing wisely, it becomes too heavy. Jesus asks us to make order, to leave behind what holds us back from Him and keep only what is essential.

Brothers and sisters, God does not ask for instant perfection, but He asks for seriousness. Let us ask ourselves: what place does Christ have in my life? Is He the foundation of my house or just an accessory? Today let us ask for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to guide us; for Paul’s courage to transform relationships; and for Jesus’ radical love that calls us to follow Him even with the cross.

Let us end with a prayer: Lord, enlighten our steps, show us what to keep and what to let go of. Help us to see every neighbour as a brother or sister, and help us to build our lives on the solid rock that is You.

**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.

### **Missio Boxes or ‘The Red Boxes’**

It is that time of the year again. Would the Parishioners who have the red collection boxes at home please bring them into Church. I will collect them and bank the contents for the Missions. Please leave the boxes in the Sacristy with your name clearly on the box. Once counted, I will leave a box at the rear of the church for you to collect, with your name attached.

If anyone reading this is wondering what these boxes are for, please collect a leaflet at the back of the church labelled 'Missio' or speak with Jim or me to arrange a box. *Wendy Moroney - Missio Secretary*

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:fhc-hainault@brcdt.org)

**Please hand in your completed application and consent forms to Fr. Tarcziu no later than Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025.**

**The Programme will commence on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.**