

Mass times and intentions: 13th – 21st September 2025

Saturday	13	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 18.00 – Liam Hayes RIP
Sunday	14	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	15	No Mass
Tuesday	16	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian 10.00 – Michael Quinn RIP
Wednesday	17	St Robert Bellarmine 10.00 – Mbambo Family – Thanksgiving
Thursday	18	Feria 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
Friday	19	St Theodore of Canterbury 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Saturday	20	Ss. Andrew Kim, Paul Chông and Companions, Korean Martyrs 10.00 – Angelina Selvan RIP
		TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Maria Bereta RIP
Sunday	21	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: 233

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 732.16

**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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THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – 14th September 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
31 – All ye who seek a comfort sure

Responsorial Psalm:

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

801 – When I survey the wondrous cross

757 – Vaster far than any ocean

77 – Because the Lord is my shepherd

573 – The Old Rugged Cross

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a day that reminds us that the sign of suffering and death has become for us the sign of salvation and love. The three readings we heard today show a clear thread: the Cross is the place where God transforms evil into good and death into life.

In the first reading, from the Book of Numbers, the chosen people are in the desert. Tired and frustrated, they complain against God and Moses. As a consequence, venomous serpents come, and many die. Yet, in the midst of suffering, God offers a way of healing: a bronze serpent lifted on a pole. Whoever looked at it was healed. Notice: the serpent itself had no power; the act of looking up, recognising the need for help, and trusting God brought healing.

In the second reading, from the Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul reveals the true face of the Son of God: Jesus did not cling to His divine glory but emptied Himself, becoming man and going as far as death, death on a cross. There, on the wood of the Cross, His humility became His exaltation. Through His total self-giving, the Father lifted Him above all.

The Gospel of John connects these images: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” The Cross of Jesus is not just a pole of torture but a window to heaven. The gaze of faith heals, brings hope, and gives life.

How can we understand this mystery? Think of a mother who would enter a burning house to save her child. She would not think of herself but would go to the end out of love. This is what Jesus did: He entered the fire of our suffering, took upon Himself the poison of sin, so that we might be healed. The Cross is the sign of this radical love.

In our own lives, we all have our deserts: illnesses, problems, mistakes, fears. Sometimes we feel the “serpents” biting us: hurtful words, failures, losses. In those moments, we are invited to lift our eyes to the Cross. Not as a magical object, but as a living sign: God does not abandon us. He is with us and shows that after night comes day, after the Cross comes the Resurrection.

Let us learn today to see the Cross not as a sad symbol but as a sign of love. Perhaps at home you have a crucifix on the wall: stop for a moment in front of it, tell Jesus what is in your heart, ask for strength and forgiveness. The Cross is not just history; it is present: it is the open arms of God.

Brothers and sisters, let us remember the words of today’s Gospel: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.” This is the Good News of the Cross: love conquers death.

A short prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of the Cross, where Your love was poured out for us. Help us to trust You in our moments of trial, to find hope in our suffering, and to see Your victory in our daily lives. Teach us to lift our eyes to You and to walk in Your light.

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.

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!

Diocesan Second Collection

There will be a second collection next weekend after each Mass for ‘Evangelii Gaudium Day’ which funds the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation.

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.