

Mass times and intentions: 04th – 12th October 2025

Saturday	04	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Seamus O'Neill
Sunday	05	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	06	No Mass
Tuesday	07	Our Lady of the Rosary 10.00 – Teresa Casey RIP
Wednesday	08	St Osyth 10.00 – Angelina and Isabelle Diy
Thursday	09	St John Henry Newman 10.00 – Charles Vas – intentions
Friday	10	St Denis and his companions martyrs 10.00 – Freya Killilea – intentions
Saturday	11	St John XXIII 10.00 – Pompea Ionio
		TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Michl Family – thanksgiving for all the blessings
Sunday	12	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: 302

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 696.39

**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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 05th October 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

31 – All ye who seek a comfort sure

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

285 – Here I am Lord

90 – Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation

74 – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

512 – Now thank we all our God

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today’s readings place before us an ancient question: *Why keep believing when it seems God is silent?*

The prophet Habakkuk cries: “*O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?*”. It is the cry of the person who sees evil, injustice, and suffering, and does not understand why God does not intervene immediately. And God answers: “*The righteous shall live by his faith*”.

Faith is not an explanation for all of life’s mysteries, but it is a light that helps us go forward even when we cannot see the end of the road.

In today’s Gospel, the apostles ask: “*Increase our faith!*”. They feel weak, they find it hard to forgive seven times a day, to live according to the Gospel. But Jesus answers in a surprising way: “*If you had faith like*

a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you'.

The mustard seed is very small, almost like the tip of a needle. Jesus tells us that what matters is not the quantity of faith, but its authenticity. We do not need to be “giants of faith,” but to place our hearts sincerely in that small trust we have in God.

It is said that in a village there was a great drought. The people decided to gather and pray for rain. They all came together in front of the church, singing and praying. But the priest noticed something: only one child had brought an umbrella. All the others prayed, but did not truly expect the rain to come. The child, however, believed.

This is faith like a mustard seed: simple, pure, trusting.

Saint Paul reminds Timothy: *“fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you”*. Faith is not luggage that you put away in a closet, but a fire that must be tended. If you do not put wood on the fire, it will go out. In the same way, if we do not nourish faith through prayer, through the Word of God, through works of love, it slowly fades.

A man went to his priest and said: “Father, my faith seems to have grown cold. I no longer feel anything in prayer, at Mass, in my daily life.” The priest took him before the stove where the fire was burning, and pulled out a glowing coal, setting it aside. At first the coal glowed, but slowly it went out. Then the priest placed it back among the other coals, and immediately it lit up again.

So it is with our faith: if we remain alone, far from God and the community, it goes out. If we stay close to Him and to our brothers and sisters, our faith is lit again.

Jesus ends today’s Gospel with a difficult word for us: *“when you have done all that you were commanded, say: We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty”*. True faith does not seek applause, it does not ask for immediate reward, but is lived in the simplicity of service.

An old man came to church every morning. He would kneel quietly, without saying many prayers. The priest asked him: “What do you do here, staying so long in silence?” The old man replied: “I look at Him, and He looks at me. And that is enough.”

This is faith: a simple, but strong friendship with God.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have begun the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary. It is no coincidence that the Church invites us to pray the Rosary more often in this time: it is the “chain” that binds us to God through the hand of His Mother. This prayer, so simple and repetitive, sometimes even tiring, helps us keep the fire of faith alive.

The one who prays the Rosary holds in his hand a strong chain that pulls him towards heaven. Many saints have said that the Rosary is the “weapon” of the believer against evil. But it is not only a weapon: it is also a mother who takes us by the hand.

A young man recalled that as a child, when he was afraid at night, his mother would take him by the hand and say: “Do not be afraid, I am here.” Later, the young man understood that the Rosary is exactly this: when you pray the Hail Mary, you place your hand in the hand of the heavenly Mother and you keep going forward without fear.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this Sunday let us ask the Lord for that small but true faith which can move mountains. Let us keep the fire of faith alive through prayer, through humble service, and above all through the Rosary, this simple and powerful prayer. With the Mother of God at our side, our faith will remain alive, no matter how great the trials.

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.

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.

All are invited

As the autumn nights draw in, all are invited to the fabulous St John Vianney Catholic Church Dinner & Dance on Saturday 18 October at the Forest Row Centre, 241 Lodge Lane, Romford RM5 2LD. Doors open at 5pm, dinner will be served at 6.30pm. The evening will include music, dancing, a raffle, an auction, good food and wine, all for £50 adults, £25 under 16s. Everyone always has a great time at this annual event.

For tickets, which must be bought in advance (for catering purposes), please phone Francis Addai on 07950 657777.