

Mass times and intentions: 11th – 19th October 2025

Saturday	11	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Michl Family – thanksgiving for all the blessings
Sunday	12	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	13	No Mass
Tuesday	14	Feria 10.00 – Joseph Mastracci – thanksgiving
Wednesday	15	St Teresa of Jesus 10.00 – James Teehan RIP
Thursday	16	St Margaret Mary Alacoque 10.00 – Gary Sullivan – intentions
Friday	17	St Ignatius of Antioch 10.00 – Anthony Alabi
Saturday	18	St Luke 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
		TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	19	11.30 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP (5 years anniversary)

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: 266

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 578.91

**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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 12th October 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

312 – Into one we all are gathered through the love of Christ

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

517 – O bread of heaven, beneath this veil (v. 1, 2, 4)

74 – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (v. 1, 2, 3)

358 – Let there be love/joy/peace shared among us

80 – Bind us together, Lord

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel tells us about ten lepers who meet Jesus on the road. Ten people marked by suffering, rejected by others, living without hope. They all cry out from the depth of their hearts: "*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*" And Jesus listens. He tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. And as they went, they were healed.

But only one came back, fell at the feet of Jesus, and thanked Him. And Jesus said with sadness: "*Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?*"

My dear friends, this question of Jesus did not remain only in the Gospel. It continues to echo through time, and it reaches us today.

And Jesus asks each of us, very simply: "*Where are you? Have you come back to give thanks?*"

So often we ask, we beg, we pray - but we forget to give thanks.

We call on God in times of trouble, but when joy returns, we act as if it were something we earned. We forget that everything is a gift - life, breath, family, food, forgiveness. And yet, gratitude is the breath of the soul. When a person stops thanking God, faith begins to fade. Because gratitude is the visible face of a living faith.

In the first reading, we meet Naaman the Syrian, a foreigner, a powerful man, but sick with leprosy. He listens to the prophet Elisha, bathes seven times in the Jordan River, and is healed. And, full of wonder, he declares: "*Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.*" Naaman understood. And the Samaritan in the Gospel understood as well. Both were foreigners, outsiders - yet both returned and gave thanks. Because God does not look at race, power, or background. He looks at the heart that is humble and grateful. Sometimes those who have come from far away in faith live it more deeply than those who think they already possess it. Sometimes those who have suffered the most are the ones who know best how to say, "Thank you, Lord."

It is said that an old priest often visited a hospital. One day, he met a young man lying in bed, sad and discouraged. The priest gently asked him: "Would you like to pray together?" The young man replied: "I can't anymore, Father. I've asked God so many times to heal me, and He hasn't answered." The priest looked at him with kindness and said: "Then let's not ask for anything today. Let's just thank Him for what you've already received." At first, the young man was silent. Then, with tears in his eyes, he began to say: "Thank you, Lord, for my mother... for my friends who visit me... for the doctors who take care of me... for every new day You still give me..." As he spoke, his face began to brighten. When he finished, the priest said to him: "You see? You may not be healed from your illness, but you have been healed from bitterness."

My dear friends, this is the power of gratitude. It does not always change our situation, but it changes our heart. And a heart filled with gratitude is already a heart healed.

Saint Paul says to Timothy: "*Remember Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead.*" To remember means not to forget the good we have received, to keep our hearts awake. Gratitude is not just a polite gesture - it is a way of life. And whoever lives with gratitude automatically becomes a missionary of joy. The healed man returns and proclaims Jesus. And so do we: if we have truly experienced God's mercy, we cannot remain silent. True gratitude always becomes witness. Through our lives we begin to say: "I, too, have been touched by the mercy of God!"

We are in the month of October – the month of the Holy Rosary and of Mission. The Rosary is the prayer of grateful hearts. With every "Hail Mary," we say: "Lord, thank You for the salvation You have given us through Your Son." The Blessed Virgin Mary lived her whole life in a silent but deep "thank You". She did not keep the joy to herself - she "went in haste" to visit Elizabeth. That is what mission looks like: taking gratitude and turning it into love, into service, into the sharing of faith.

Let us pray this month for all missionaries, those who, often in silence and sacrifice, bring the light of faith to the ends of the earth. But let us also remember that each of us, in our own place, is called to be a missionary of gratitude - through our words, our prayer, and our acts of kindness.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus looks at us today and still asks: "Where are the others?" Where are those who have received life, but live as if it were not a gift? Where are those who have been forgiven, blessed, and healed, but have not returned? Let us be the ones who return. Let us be the ones who say: "Thank You, Lord, for all You have given me, even for what I do not yet understand." Let us return to Him in prayer, in the Rosary, in the Eucharist, and in our daily acts of love. Because wherever there is a grateful heart, God makes His home there.

And then we will understand that true healing is not only of the body, but of the heart - a heart that has truly learned to say: "Lord, thank You... and I love You."

Amen.

• **Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday**

There will be a second collection after both Masses next weekend for World Mission Sunday. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. (<https://missio.org.uk/>)

• **UK Parliament Petition:**

Do not introduce assisted dying and abolish abortion

In England & Wales 1 in 4 pregnancies are aborted, but we believe our Society should Protect the **Sacred Gift of Life**, especially Innocent Children In The Womb, and the Sick & Helpless. **We believe Life Is From Conception - No Exceptions - Until A Natural Death.** We Support this Petition for we believe every Life is Worth Living and a Civilised Society offers Families Palliative Care, Hope, Love, Kindness not death. We feel life is under attack at every stage. We won't give up. We desire to fight for a Culture of Life, because Every Single Life Matters. We call upon Parliament to **Choose Life** & not what we believe is a culture of death. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/738764>