

**Mass times and intentions: 25<sup>th</sup> October – 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2025**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 18.00 – Anna and John Harvey RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	11.30 – The People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>27</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Ss Simon and Jude</b> 10.00 – Esther Olusanya
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Patrick Walshe RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Jackie Swevin
<b>Friday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 – Mr Kojo RIP
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> 10.00 – Souls in Purgatory
		<b>ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS' DAY</b> 18.00 – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>02</b>	11.30 – Flora Cumberbatch RIP

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: 296**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 753.80**

**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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**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

**738** – Thou whose almighty Word (v. 1, 3, 4)

**Responsorial Psalm:**

***The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.***

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

**40** – Amazing grace!

**596** – Peace is the gift of heaven to earth

**602** – Praise, my soul, the king of heaven!

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

Today's Gospel presents us with two people who come to pray: a Pharisee and a tax collector. Both enter the temple, but only one goes home *justified*, that is, at peace with God. Why? Because one speaks proudly about himself, while the other speaks truthfully about his need for mercy.

The first reading from the Book of Sirach tells us a great truth that runs through all of Scripture: "The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds." God shows no favouritism. He doesn't look at our clothes, our positions, or our titles - He looks at **the heart**.

The Pharisee prays, "God, I thank you that I am not like other men..." putting *himself* at the centre of his prayer. The tax collector, on the other hand, cannot even raise his eyes to heaven. He beats his chest and says:

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” That short prayer is like a sigh of the soul - and God hears it. Because it comes from a sincere and broken heart.

It is said that in a city, a priest was once called to visit an old woman in the hospital. When he arrived, he found her alone, weary, yet with a strange peace in her eyes. He asked gently: “Can I help you with something? Would you like to go to confession?” The woman smiled faintly and said: “Father, it’s been so many years since I’ve had the courage to go back to church. I’ve done many wrong things... things I’m ashamed of. But do you know what I do every night before I fall asleep? I just say: *‘Lord, if there’s still room for a soul like mine, please take me too.’*” The priest was silent for a moment. Then he said: “My daughter, God has been waiting just to hear those words. He doesn’t look at your past, but at the tear you shed now. That simple prayer is worth more than many words.”

That woman, like the tax collector in the Gospel, had no great deeds to show, no arguments to defend herself. But she had a **sincere heart** - and God never rejects a contrite heart.

In the second reading, Saint Paul shows us the heart of someone who has reached the end of life at peace with God. He doesn’t boast of his own achievements but places all his trust in the Lord: “The Lord stood by me and strengthened me.” True humility means to recognise that all good things come from God and that without Him we can do nothing.

We live in a world where people often want to prove how good, smart, or capable they are. But the Gospel invites us to **truth and simplicity**. It is not shameful to say, “Lord, I have sinned.” What is shameful is to believe that we don’t need God. Never forget: even the shortest, simplest prayer - when spoken with faith - has great power. Sometimes, one sincere “Lord, have mercy on me” can open heaven faster than many long prayers said without love.

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of October - the month of the **Holy Rosary** and of the **Missions**. The Rosary is the prayer of the humble. In every “Hail Mary,” there hides a heart that knows how to trust, how to be silent, and how to love. Mary is our model of prayer - not proud, not loud, but trusting and faithful.

And the Missionary Month reminds us that **true missionaries** are not those who speak much, but those who **love deeply**. A missionary priest

once said that in the African village where he served, the people could not understand his words - he didn’t speak their language. Yet they always came to him. When asked why, they said: “Because when he looks at us, we feel that God loves us.”

Wherever there is a humble heart, God becomes present.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us go home today with a simple prayer in our hearts: “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.” This is the prayer that opens heaven. Let us pray the Rosary with faith, live our lives with humility, and bring God’s love wherever He sends us.

For wherever there is a humble heart, **there God feels at home.**

**Amen.**

### • **Church Roof Repair Project Approved**

With joy, we announce that we have **received official approval to begin the repair works on our church roof**. I sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, patience, and constant support throughout this process. To begin the works, we need to raise a total of **£9,996.60**.

I kindly ask you, as you have always done, to stand by our church in this important project by contributing as you are able. I am confident that **together, with God’s help, we will bring this much-needed work to completion**, for His glory and for the good of our community.

### • **Parish Council Meeting**

On **Thursday, 30 October 2025**, at **7:30 PM**, the **Parish Council Meeting** will take place in the hall behind the church. All Parish Council members are kindly asked to attend. If anyone from the parish would like to make a suggestion or has a concern, please inform one of the Parish Council members or the parish priest.

### • **A Loving Gift for the Future**

Writing your will can be seen as writing a letter of love - a way to share what truly matters to you with the people and places that have shaped your life. When the time feels right to write your will, please consider remembering our Church. Our parish family relies entirely on the kindness and generosity of those who cherish this sacred place and wish to see its mission continue. By including our Church in your will, you help to keep faith alive and strong for generations to come. Every gift, no matter the size - even one percent - makes a real difference and becomes a lasting sign of love and hope.