

Mass times and intentions: 29th November – 07th December 2025

Saturday	29	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Elizabeth Flora (Betty) and William Charles (Bill) Killick RIP
Sunday	30	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	01	No Mass
Tuesday	02	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent 10.00 – Busari and Olusanya Families
Wednesday	03	St Francis Xavier 10.00 – Salvador Fernandes RIP
Thursday	04	Thursday of the First Week of Advent 10.00 – Christy and Eileen Cremin RIP
Friday	05	Friday of the First Week of Advent 10.00 – Mai Collins RIP
Saturday	06	St Nicholas 10.00 – Irene Moore RIP
		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Amor and Vladimir Michl - Thanksgiving
Sunday	07	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: 250

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 547.70

Church Roof Renovation Fund

There will be a 2nd collection after each Sunday Mass to help with the cleaning and repair works on our church roof. Any donation would be most welcome.

Standing order details:	Online via QR Code:
Account Name: Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 31019244	

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 30th November 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
241 – Hail to the Lord’s anointed! (v. 1, 2, 3)

Responsorial Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

332 – Jesus, thou art coming, holy as thou art (v. 1, 5, 6)

243 – Hark! A herald voice is calling

4 – A new commandment I give unto you

268 – Our God reigns

Dear brothers and sisters,

Advent begins like a deep breath from God over our hearts. Not with noise, not with fireworks, but with a quiet invitation that sounds like a bell in a sleeping village: “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!” This is how Isaiah opens his prophecy today. It is not only a call, but a promise: where people climb toward God, there miracles happen - changes that the logic of this world cannot explain.

I imagine the crowd in the prophet’s vision like a river of people climbing a mountain filled with light. No one pushes them, no one forces them; they are drawn forward, as if their hearts have finally recognised the right direction. Maybe this is what true peace looks like: not the absence of war, but the presence of God - so strong that even iron feels ashamed of violence and lets itself be changed into a tool for life.

I once knew a young man who carried bitterness for years like a heavy armour. Anyone who came close was pushed away with sharp words. One day,

during confession, the priest told him gently: “Give God just one wound, not all of them. Let Him see it, not you.” The next day, the young man asked his mother for forgiveness. Nothing spectacular... just a weapon changed into a tool. Perhaps this is the first work of Advent: letting God shape the hard metal of our hearts.

The Psalm leads us further and turns us into pilgrims of joy: “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!” Not out of duty, but out of longing. There are roads we walk because we must, and there are roads we walk because we know that someone is waiting for us at the end. Advent is the second kind of road - the road we take not because we have to, but because every step brings us closer to the gaze of a God who waits not as a judge, but as a friend.

Saint Paul surprises us with a shout that feels like sunrise: “It is time to wake from sleep!” The sleep he speaks about is not night sleep, but that inner sleep that makes us stop truly living: the sleep of forgetting to pray, of losing patience, of becoming comfortable with a life that is only half alive. Advent shakes us gently, like a warm hand on the shoulder: “Wake up, Light is coming.”

I remember a story about an old man who used to go out to his porch every evening and light a candle in the window. Someone once asked him: “For whom do you light it?” He answered: “For someone who may come one day... so he knows the door is not closed.” He didn’t even know the person’s name, but the gesture kept his heart awake. Maybe we too need a candle in the window of our souls.

The Gospel speaks about the surprise of the Lord’s coming. Not as a threat, but with the tenderness of a God who comes quietly, like a visitor to someone He loves. The problem is not that He comes unexpectedly, but that we can become so busy with our affairs that we no longer hear His steps. The people in Noah’s time were not evil - they were simply distracted. They lived without lifting their eyes to the One who gave them life.

Someone once told me that one day, his little child walked into the house with a small bouquet of flowers picked from the roadside. It was a simple gift, but the father, lost in his laptop, murmured a half-attentive “thank you” without even looking up. Later, when he found the flowers wilted on his desk, his heart hurt: he had missed a moment of grace. Sometimes God comes in exactly this way: with small gestures, with unnoticed flowers, and passes by if we don’t stop.

Brothers and sisters, Advent is the art of stopping. The art of lighting a candle, opening a door, forgiving, listening, being silent, looking toward God as toward the only sunrise that never fades. He does not ask great things from us - only a

heart that allows itself to be awakened. A heart that says: “Lord, I am coming towards You... transform me and lighten my steps.”

Let us enter Advent like the pilgrims of Isaiah, like people who know that Someone is waiting for them at the end of the path. Let us allow ourselves to be filled with the joy of this waiting - a waiting that does not tire, because we are not waiting for a thing, but for a Person. And let us keep our light burning, so that when the Lord comes, He may find us awake, drawn to His light, and ready to walk with Him into the day that never ends.

Amen.

• **Together for Our Church Roof**

We hope to begin the cleaning and repair works on the roof of our church, but this will only be possible once we have gathered the necessary funds. So far, through your generosity, we have collected **£4,886.65** out of the **£9,996.60** required.

It is not easy for me to ask for support, but I do so for the sake of this church we care for together, striving to keep it well-maintained, dignified, and welcoming. Those who wish and are able to further support this project are kindly invited to do so.

I am confident that, together and with the help of God, we will succeed in accomplishing what we have set out to do.

Thank you sincerely for your kindness, your prayers, and your steadfast support. May God bless you all!

• **Christmas Hampers**

Raffle tickets will be on sale before and after Mass for our annual Christmas Hampers. Any donations of food/gifts for these hampers will be gratefully received. There will be a box for these contributions at the back of the Church. The proceeds of this raffle will be for the repair of the Church roof and the raffle will be drawn after Mass on Sunday 7th December 2025.

• **Confirmation Programme for 2026**

Application forms for Confirmation Programme for 2026 are now available at the back of the church. You need to have the following 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 9 at school (14 years old and above)
- practising Catholic family in this parish (baptised Catholic, goes to church regularly, and receive the sacrament of Communion and Reconciliation); or reference from previous parish priest if you're new to our church community.

Session will be **every Saturday at 10.00am starting on the 10th of January 2026.**

Parents/Carers need to attend the first meeting in January. Please hand in your completed application form to Fr. Tarciziu no later than 4th of January 2026.

