

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

Saturday	13	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Bill Casey RIP
Sunday	14	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	15	No Mass
Tuesday	16	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent 10.00 – Bridie Scanlon RIP
Wednesday	17	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Anne Lovett
Thursday	18	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
Friday	19	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Saturday	20	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Beatrice – Birthday
		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Sylvia Culling 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: 250

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 866.05

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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 14th December 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
765 – Walk with me, oh my Lord (v. 1, 2, 5)
Responsorial Psalm: *Come, Lord, and save us.*
662 – Sons of God, hear his holy Word! (v. 1, 3, 4, 6)
633 – Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
133 – Come, thou long-expected Jesus
227 – God’s spirit is in my heart

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday, in the middle of Advent, the Church speaks to us a word that sometimes feels difficult to accept: rejoice. But this is not an invitation that ignores the pains of life. It is a truth that comes right into the heart of our struggles. Today’s readings tell us that joy is not something added from the outside, but the fruit of believing that God is at work even when our eyes cannot yet see anything.

The prophet Isaiah speaks about a desert that blossoms. This is an image that touches the heart more than the mind. Each of us carries a kind of desert within: a disappointment, a tired soul, a suffering we do not understand, a road we no longer know how to walk. And in that place where we feel nothing can grow anymore, God says: “I will strengthen your weak hands, I will steady your trembling knees, I will come to save you.” God does not avoid our desert - He enters it. Where we see only dryness, He sees the possibility of new life.

The Psalm reminds us that the Lord lifts up those who have fallen and heals the broken-hearted. This is the true face of God: not a strict judge counting our mistakes, but a Father who bends down with gentleness, who places balm on our wounds, who does not hurry to condemn but to restore.

The Letter of James calls us to patience - not a sad or passive patience, but the patience of someone who knows that God works quietly, like rain falling softly and sinking into the soil until it brings fruit. Many times, we want quick answers, visible results, clear signs. But God works with a tenderness that never forces, but slowly transforms everything at the right time.

A powerful and real example comes from our recent history. During the hard years of communism, Father Gheorghe Calciu spent many years in prison. In the cold, in hunger, in beatings and darkness, he prayed in silence, without seeing any change, without receiving any good news, without any human hope of freedom. No one could have blamed him if he thought his prayers were lost in the thick prison walls. And yet, God was already at work. Years later, after the fall of the regime, one of the guards who had tortured him came to him, ashamed and in tears, asking for forgiveness. Father Calciu said that only then did he truly understand what God had been doing during those years of suffering: "No prayer had been lost. God had been working in our hearts in ways we did not imagine."

This is Christian patience: to keep hoping when nothing changes, to keep believing when everything seems closed, to keep praying even when the soul is tired. God does not delay; God prepares.

In the Gospel we meet John the Baptist, the great prophet, the strong and fearless man who shook the desert with his voice - but who now, in prison, feels doubt rising in his heart. "Are you the one who is to come?" How human this is! Even the greatest servants of God have moments of darkness. Jesus does not rebuke him; He sends a message: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor receive the Good News. In other words: "John, do not be afraid. Even if you are in darkness, the light is already working. The Father's plan continues."

The same happens in our lives. Many times, we feel like John in prison: trapped in worries, pain, confusion, or loneliness, and God seems far away. But today's Gospel tells us: "Do not stop. God is closer than you think. Even if you see nothing now, He is at work." This is why the joy of Advent is not a forced smile. It is the quiet peace that comes from trusting that God never abandons what He has begun. This joy does not deny the struggles of life, but looks at them through the promise that the desert will bloom, tears will be wiped away, broken hearts will be renewed, and our patience is never wasted.

Let us ask the Lord, on this Sunday of joy, to touch the deserts in our lives, to heal our hidden wounds, to strengthen our tired steps, and to give us the patience of those who know that when we hear nothing, God is preparing something beautiful. May He give us eyes that recognise His signs, hearts open to His light, and courage to walk forward with trust. And when His Son comes, may He find us not discouraged or burdened, but open, confident, and ready for the joy that never fades.

Amen.

• **Together for Our Church Roof**

I am pleased to announce that the work on the roof of our church began on Friday. The gutters on the main roof have already been replaced, and the side roof has been fully cleaned. On Monday, the scaffolding will be installed so that, with the help of God, we may succeed in repairing and cleaning the entire church roof by Christmas.

I sincerely hope that, together, we will be able to complete this important project for our community. We still need some financial support. So far, **£8,481** have been raised out of the **£9,996.60** needed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity, and I kindly ask you to continue to support me in this project. May God bless you all!

• **Thank You for Supporting Our Christmas Raffle**

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who helped organize the **Christmas Raffle**, as well as to everyone who purchased tickets and contributed to raising the funds needed for the repair and cleaning of our church roof. We are pleased to announce that, thanks to your generosity, a total of **£512** has been collected. We also hope that the winners enjoyed the beautiful gifts they received, and that the approaching feast days may bring peace, comfort, and joy to all. Thank you for your dedication, involvement, and love for our church!

• **Confirmation Programme for 2026**

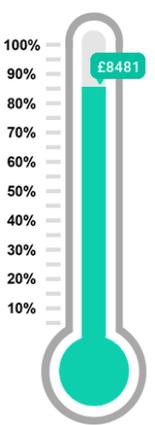
Application forms for Confirmation Programme for 2026 are now available at the back of the church. You need to have the following to be eligible for the programme:

- 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.

Goal: £9996



ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Sundays in Advent	Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30
Wednesday, 24th December	17.30 – CHRISTMAS CAROLS 18.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Thursday, 25th December	10.00 – CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday, 26th December	10.00 – St John
Saturday, 27th December	10.00 – The Holy Innocents
Sunday, 28th December	Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family
Thursday, 01st January	10.00 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God