

Mass times and intentions: 20th – 28th December 2025

Saturday	20	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Sylvia Culling RIP
Sunday	21	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	22	No Mass
Tuesday	23	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Kathleen Tierney
Wednesday	24	Weekday of Advent 10.00 – Noel Hough RIP
		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 18.00 – In Honour of Infant Jesus of Prague
Thursday	25	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 – The People of the Parish
Friday	26	St Stephen 10.00 – Bernadette Prudence RIP
Saturday	27	St John 10.00 – Deidre Guinane
		THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	28	11.30 – Roland and Madeleine Selvini 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.

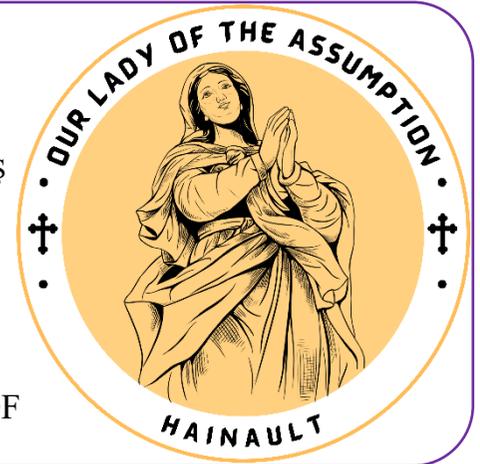
Mass Attendance last weekend: 250

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 537.60

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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 21st December 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
522 – O come, O come, Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

373 – Lo, He comes with clouds descending

377 – Lord accept the gifts we offer

686 – The angel Gabriel from heaven came

684 – Tell out my soul

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are very close to Christmas, in the last Sunday of Advent, and the Word of God invites us to approach the great mystery of the Lord’s coming not with noise or excitement, but with silence, faith, and obedience. Today all the readings speak about a God who comes, but who waits to be welcomed; about a God who is faithful to his promises; and about a man who dares to believe even when he does not understand everything.

In the first reading, from the prophet Isaiah, we meet King Ahaz. He is in a difficult situation, surrounded by fear and uncertainty. God offers him a sign, saying, “Ask for a sign from the Lord.” But Ahaz refuses. Not because he is humble, but because his heart is closed. He prefers to rely on human plans and political alliances rather than on God. So the Lord himself gives a sign: “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.” This is the promise of a God who does not abandon his people, even when they hesitate or turn away.

Very often, we are like Ahaz. When we face problems in our families, in our health, or in our communities, we say we believe, but deep down we rely only

on our own solutions. God speaks to us, invites us, gives us signs, yet sometimes we stop asking and stop listening. And still, God remains faithful. He comes anyway. He comes in unexpected ways.

The psalm reminds us who this God is: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." He is not a weak or distant God. He is the Lord of glory. And yet, this Lord of glory chooses to come as a child. He comes gently. He comes asking our hearts to be opened. "Lift up your heads, O gates" - it is as if God is saying to us: open your lives and let me enter.

In the Gospel, our attention turns to Saint Joseph. He is a man of silence and discretion, but also of deep faith. His situation is painful and confusing: Mary, his betrothed, is expecting a child that is not his. He does not understand. He does not know what to do. The Gospel says he was a righteous man. This does not mean he was hard or cold, but that he knew how to love without harming. He wants to protect Mary and spare her from shame. In this moment of darkness, God speaks to him in a dream. God does not explain everything in detail. He does not answer all questions. He simply says, "Do not be afraid."

This is one of the most beautiful messages of Advent. God does not ask us to understand everything; he asks us to trust. Joseph does not argue, does not ask for proof, does not delay. He wakes up and does what the Lord has told him. He changes his plans, accepts the risk, and offers his life so that God's plan may be fulfilled. Through Joseph's quiet "yes," God enters the world.

We can learn much from his example. How often does God speak to us through events, through people, through our conscience, and we hesitate or say, "Later"? Joseph teaches us that true faith is shown in simple actions: welcoming, protecting, and moving forward even when the path is not clear.

Saint Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born from the family of David, sent so that we may receive grace and be called to the obedience of faith. Faith is not only a beautiful feeling; it is a concrete way of living, shaped by listening and obedience to God.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christmas is very near. Our homes may be ready, but the question remains: are our hearts ready? Do we make room for God, or do we leave him outside? He does not come by force. He comes as a child. He needs the heart of Mary and the arms of Joseph. He also needs my heart and your heart.

Maybe we do not understand everything that is happening in our lives. Maybe there are situations that confuse or frighten us. But today God says to us again: "Do not be afraid." Open your life. Let me enter. And like Joseph, let us have the courage to rise and do what the Lord asks of us. Then Emmanuel - God with us - will truly take flesh in our lives. **Amen.**

• **Thanksgiving for the Completion of the Main Church Roof Repairs**

With the help of our good God and through the generous support of our community, we are grateful to announce that we have successfully completed the project of cleaning and repairing the main roof of our church.

This achievement would not have been possible without your involvement, cooperation, and generosity. We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed through prayer or financial support.

May God richly reward each one for their kindness and dedication, and may He keep us united in caring for His house. Thank You!

• **Christmas Eve, Shared Together (24th December)**

On Christmas Eve, I invite you to join us half an hour earlier (5:30 pm) to celebrate the joy of this holy night by singing carols together. Let us lift our voices in praise and prepare our hearts for the Nativity of Our Lord.

Then, after the Evening Mass, we invite you to stay a little longer in front of the church. We will spend a few moments together, sharing a cup of mulled wine and mince pies, in a warm and joyful atmosphere, as is fitting for Christmas Eve.

We look forward to celebrating this beautiful evening together with you!

• **Supporting Our Parish Priest**

Easter and Christmas are the two times in the Church year when our offerings directly support our parish priest Fr. Tarciziu. As we celebrate this season of giving, we invite you to show your appreciation for Fr. Tarciziu's faithful guidance and service throughout the year.

Donations can be made on 24/25 December via the general offertory baskets, Dona contactless payment devices, Parish Website, QR code in the newsletters or via bank transfer (indicating that the donation is specifically for the Christmas offertory or Fr. Tarciziu). Gift aid envelopes should be dated 25th Dec 2025. If you have signed up to Gift Aid please remember to include your gift aid number (or name & address) so that the Church can benefit from an additional 25% tax refund.

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 Stephen

Saturday, 27th December

10.00 – St John

Sunday, 28th December

Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family

Thursday, 01st January

10.00 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God