

Mass times and intentions: 27th December 2025 – 04th January 2026

Saturday	27	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	28	11.30 – Roland and Madeleine Selvini RIP
Monday	29	No Mass
Tuesday	30	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Peg and Frank Mockler RIP
Wednesday	31	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Bernard White and his wife Pauline
Thursday	01	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 10.00 – Ann, Mariah, Josuah, Gabriel and Joan
Friday	02	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen 10.00 – Rupert Chandler – good health
Saturday	03	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 10.00 – Deidre Guinane
		SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 18.00 – Bridie, Michael and Anthony Scarlon RIP
Sunday	04	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 envelops 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: 288

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 692.08

Mass Attendance for Christmas: 449

Offertory Collection for Christmas: £ 1925.40

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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – 28th December 2025

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
312 – Into one we all are gathered through the love of Christ.
Responsorial Psalm: *Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*
755 – Unto us is born a Son
90 – Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation
80 – Bind us together, Lord
383 – Lord, Jesus Christ, you have come to us

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today the Church invites us to stop for a moment with grateful hearts before the Holy Family of Nazareth: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is not an idealised family, far from our reality, but a real family, who knew joy and also fear, uncertainty, hard work, silence, and flight. For this reason, the Holy Family is very close to every one of our families.

The Word of God leads us today into the heart of family life. The Book of Sirach reminds us of a simple but often forgotten truth: the relationship between parents and children is the place where respect, gratitude, and blessings are learned. “Whoever honours his father atones for sins.” Not because parents are perfect, but because God chose the family as the first place of love and formation of the heart. To honour does not mean only to obey, but to care, to be patient, and to forgive, especially when parents grow old and become weak. The world often tells us that a person’s value comes from strength and success. God’s Word tells us that true value comes from love and faithfulness.

The Psalm shows us the beauty of a family blessed by God. It is not a family without problems, but a family where God is welcomed as the foundation. "Blessed are all who fear the Lord." Happiness does not come from a life without difficulties, but from knowing that we are not alone in them. A simple table, children around it, honest work, bread earned with effort - all these become places where God is present.

Saint Paul, in the Letter to the Colossians, brings the Gospel directly into daily family life. He does not speak about ideas, but about attitudes: mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These words may seem small, but they can build or destroy a family. "Bear with one another and forgive one another." There is no family without mistakes, but there are families who choose not to let anger and bitterness have the last word. Love, Paul says, is the bond of perfection - not perfection itself, but love.

The Gospel presents us with a disturbing scene: the flight into Egypt. The Holy Family becomes a family of refugees. Joseph gets up during the night, takes the child and his mother, and leaves. He does not ask "why?" He listens and protects life. Joseph shows us the quiet but essential role of a father: to watch over, to make responsible decisions, and to place the safety of the family above everything else. Mary shows us trust, even when the road is not clear. Jesus experiences from childhood what many people experience: fear, exile, and total dependence on the love of his parents.

The Holy Family tells us that the family is not free from the cross, but it is the place where the cross can be carried together. A child does not need perfect parents, but parents who love each other and who get up again after they fall. A husband or a wife does not need big promises, but faithfulness in small things: a kind word, forgiveness, a real presence.

I remember a mother who once said, "Father, our home is not always peaceful, but in the evening, when we pray together, everything seems to fall into place." Prayer does not magically solve problems, but it places them in God's hands.

I also remember a father who, after many years of hard work, said, "I could not give my children everything they wanted, but I was there for them." Sometimes presence is the greatest gift.

The Holy Family of Nazareth teaches us that the family is the first school of faith, love, and humanity. It is there that we learn to say "thank you," "I am sorry," and "I love you." It is there that we learn we are not alone, and that life is worth living even when it is hard.

Let us pray today for all families: for united families, that they may remain grateful; for wounded families, that they may find healing; for poor families, that they may not lose hope; for lonely families, that they may feel God's closeness. And let us ask the Holy Family to teach us how to turn our homes, with all their limits, into small Nazareths, where God can live.

Amen.

• **Thank you**

From the depths of my heart, I want to thank each of you for your generosity and support during this holy season of Christmas. Whether you contributed with gifts, helped organise the celebrations, or offered financial support, every gesture has been a blessing and a source of joy.

I am deeply grateful that, through your dedication and kindness, we were able to celebrate the birth of our Lord in such a beautiful and meaningful way. May God reward your goodness a hundredfold and fill your homes and hearts with peace, health and love. Thank You!

• **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.

• **Please Note**

We kindly remind everyone that the celebration of the Holy Mass is a sacred time for prayer and thanksgiving. Out of respect for the Eucharist, the celebrant, and your fellow parishioners, we encourage you to refrain from engaging in conversation during Mass and to remain until the final blessing and the conclusion of the closing hymn. Leaving early not only disrupts the prayerful atmosphere but also means missing the grace imparted in the final moments of the Mass. Let us honour this sacred time together with reverence and gratitude. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.