

**CATHOLIC PARISH  
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDES

020 8500 3953

07735 416319

[hainault@brcdt.org](mailto:hainault@brcdt.org)

[finance-hainault@brcdt.org](mailto:finance-hainault@brcdt.org)

[www.hainault.org.uk](http://www.hainault.org.uk)

98, Manford Way, Hainault, IG7 4DF



**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

577 – Once in royal David's city (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Today a Saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.*

540 – O little town of Bethlehem (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

66 – Away in a manger

314 – It came upon the midnight clear

244 – Hark, the herald angels sing

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

On this holy night, the world seems to breathe differently. The streets are quieter, the lights are warmer, and even the most tired hearts open a little more. We have come here carrying joys, but also burdens; hopes, but also worries. And on this night, the Word of God tells us something essential: God is not far from our lives. He comes to meet us where we are.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” says the prophet Isaiah. The darkness is not only the darkness of the night, but the darkness of the heart: fear, loneliness, guilt, disappointment, the tiredness of life. Each of us knows this darkness. There are people who, even on Christmas night, carry a wound, a longing, a hidden tear. God does not judge us for this darkness. He lights a flame in the middle of it.

And this light does not come as overwhelming power, but as a child. A baby wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. God chose to come small, fragile, and silent. He chose to knock gently at the door of our hearts, without forcing it open. This is the great message of this night: God comes so close that He can be

welcomed or refused. He waits for a place, even a very simple one, where He can be born.

The Gospel tells us that the shepherds were the first to hear the good news. Simple people, tired, awake in the night. And to them the angel says, “Do not be afraid.” These words are also for us: do not be afraid of the past, do not be afraid of the future, do not be afraid because you feel you are not good enough. Tonight, God does not come to condemn us, but to save us; not to take something from us, but to give us peace.

I remember that on a Christmas night, few years ago, I was called to a hospital, to a man who was dying and asked for confession. After confession and Holy Communion, the man whispered, “Now I am not alone.” The room was cold, without Christmas lights, but there Christmas was real. Because wherever a person welcomes the Lord, Christ is born.

The Psalm invites us to sing, “Today a Saviour has been born to us.” Not only long ago in history, but today. Christ wants to be born now: in a family that needs forgiveness, in a heart that has closed itself, in a soul that is tired of hoping. But like every child, He needs to be welcomed, protected, loved.

Saint Paul reminds us that the grace of God teaches us to live differently. Christmas is not only emotion; it is a new path. This night calls us to concrete gestures. Let us ask ourselves: whom can I forgive? Whom have I ignored? To whom can I give my time, a kind word, a helping hand? Often, the most beautiful Christmas gift is not an object, but our presence, our patience, our willingness to listen.

A mother once said that one year she could not offer her children expensive gifts. She placed a simple meal on the table and lit a candle, saying, “This year, Jesus is our gift.” It was not a perfect Christmas, but it was a true one, full of peace. Because where there is love, God is there.

The angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those whom He loves.” This peace does not mean the absence of problems, but the certainty that God walks with us. From my heart, I wish you a blessed Christmas, a Christmas filled with light in your soul, peace in your families, and renewed hope. May you feel God close to you, in your homes and in your hearts. And I encourage you, when you leave this church tonight, to carry Christmas further: through a phone call to someone who is lonely, through a visit, through an act of charity, through a prayer for those who suffer. Let us be a light for those who still walk in darkness.

On this night, each of us is called to become a manger: maybe poor, maybe imperfect, but open. If we welcome Christ, our life will not be without trials, but it will be full of meaning. With this faith and hope, I say to you all: Merry Christmas, filled with grace, peace, and blessing.

**Amen!**