

Mass times and intentions: 03rd – 11th January 2026

Saturday	03	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 18.00 – Bridie, Michael and Anthony Scarlon RIP
Sunday	04	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	05	No Mass
Tuesday	06	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 10.00 – Victor Housden RIP 20.00 – The People of the Parish
Wednesday	07	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Mary Begley RIP
Thursday	08	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Elizabeth Diagbonya RIP
Friday	09	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Benjamin Uduehi RIP
Saturday	10	Feria of Christmas time 10.00 – Neils and Hazel Mascarenhas
		THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	11	11.30 – Teresa Hudson 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: 235

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 651.85

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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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – 04th January 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
215 – God is love: his the care (v. 1, 3, 4)

Responsorial Psalm: *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

314 – It came upon the midnight clear (v. 1, 2)
S2 – Ave Maria, gratia plena
S10 – Christ be our light!
S12 – Walk in the light

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are still living in the light of Christmas. Even though the year 2025 has ended and we have already stepped into 2026, the Church invites us today to slow down and remain near the mystery of God who became one of us. This second Sunday after Christmas does not rush us forward. It gently asks us to stay, to listen, and to let our hearts be touched.

Today's Gospel tells us something very deep and very simple: "The Word became flesh and lived among us." God did not stay far away. He did not speak only from heaven. He came close. He entered our history, our weakness, our daily life. He chose to come as a child, small and fragile, so that no one would be afraid to come near Him.

Many of us begin this new year with mixed feelings. Some carry hope, others carry worries. Some start 2026 with gratitude, others with tired

hearts. Christmas does not say that everything will suddenly be easy. But it tells us something stronger: we are not alone. God is with us. He walks inside our life, not outside it.

The Book of Sirach tells us that God's Wisdom made its home among the people. Not in a perfect place. Not in a palace. But among ordinary men and women. God looks for a place to stay, even if that place is small, wounded, or unfinished. He does not wait for perfect lives. He waits for open hearts.

Think of a mother sitting next to her sick child during the night. She cannot take away the pain immediately. But she stays. She holds the child's hand. And because of her presence, the child is no longer alone. This is what Christmas means. God may not remove every difficulty, but He stays with us. And His presence changes everything.

Saint Paul reminds us that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and that He wants to enlighten the eyes of our hearts. At the beginning of this new year, this is a beautiful prayer: "Lord, open my heart so I can see." See the good that is still there. See Your presence, even in hard moments. See hope where I only see fear.

The year 2025 is now behind us. It held joys and losses, success and disappointment. But Christmas tells us that nothing is wasted in God's hands. Not our tears. Not our failures. Not our waiting. Everything can become a place where God is born again.

The Gospel says that those who received Him became children of God. To receive Him means to make room. Room in our time. Room in our families. Room in the way we speak, forgive, and love. God chose gentleness. He chose closeness. And He invites us to begin this new year with more patience, more mercy, and more kindness.

At the start of 2026, God does not ask us to be perfect or strong heroes. He asks us to trust. To remain open. To believe that He truly lives among us. Christmas continues every time we choose light instead of darkness, peace instead of anger, forgiveness instead of bitterness.

I wish you a year where God's closeness is stronger than your fears. A year where the Word becomes flesh in your actions, your homes, and your community. A year with more peace in your hearts and more courage to love. May the joy of Christmas remain with you, and may 2026 be a year full of grace, light, and the quiet certainty that God has chosen to stay with us.

Amen.

• **Warm Wishes for the New Year 2026**

At the beginning of this new year, I wish to address each of you with a heart full of gratitude and affection. As your parish priest, I thank you sincerely for your faith, your trust, and your closeness to the life of our parish. Your presence, your prayers, and your generosity are a true blessing.

As we step into 2026, may the Lord grant you peace in your hearts, light in moments of uncertainty, and strength in times of trial. May your homes be filled with love, your families with harmony, and your days with the quiet joy that comes from knowing that God walks with you.

I entrust each of you and your loved ones to God's gentle care. May this new year be a time of grace, renewal, and deep hope, lived under the loving gaze of the Lord who remains always close to us.

• **The Epiphany of the Lord – A Feast of Light and Hope**

This week we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, on Tuesday, January 6, a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, the Church rejoices in the manifestation of Jesus Christ as Savior of all nations, revealed to the Magi who followed the star to Bethlehem.

You are warmly invited to join us for the celebration of Holy Mass, as we gather to welcome the Light of Christ and renew our faith together.

May we follow the star with open hearts and allow God to reveal Himself anew in our lives.

• **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.