

## Mass times and intentions: 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

|                  |           |   |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>18.00 – The People of the Parish |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>18</b> | 11.30 – Ayomide Ishmael and Emmanuel Ayanru RIP                           |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>19</b> | No Mass   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>Feria</b><br>10.00 – Barbara, Margaret, Hannah and Family              |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>St Agnes</b><br>10.00 – Bernadette Prudence RIP                        |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>Feria</b><br>10.00 – Izabella Miludska                                 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>23</b> | <b>Feria</b><br>10.00 – Lino, Rose and Jude Da-Cunha RIP                  |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>24</b> | <b>St Frances de Sales</b><br>10.00 – Benjamin Uduehi RIP                 |
|                  |           | <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>18.00 – The People of the Parish  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>25</b> | 11.30 – Nora Kelly and Husband Desmond                                    |

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: 267**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 706.23**

| Standing order details:  | Online via QR Code:   |
|--|---|
| <b>Account Name:</b><br>Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption<br><b>Sort Code:</b> 40-13-22<br><b>Account Number:</b> 31019244 |  |

## CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

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## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass  
**179** – For the healing of the nations (v. 1, 2, 3)

**Responsorial Psalm: *Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

**183** – Forth in the peace of Christ we go (1, 3, 5)

**343** – King of glory, king of peace

**596** – Peace is the gift of heaven to earth

**190** – Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

The Gospel of this Sunday places before us one of the simplest and, at the same time, one of the most overwhelming statements in all of Scripture: “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” It is not a long discourse, nor a carefully crafted sermon, but a sentence spoken with a full heart. John the Baptist does not explain Jesus, does not defend him, does not prove him. He points to him. And by pointing to him, he steps aside. This is perhaps the first lesson of tenderness offered to us today: faith does not mean placing ourselves at the centre, but allowing God to be seen.

Isaiah tells us that the servant of the Lord was called from his mother’s womb, that his name was spoken by God before he himself could ever hear it. It is an image of extraordinary gentleness: God knows us before we know who we are. He carries us in his heart before we know how to utter a prayer. And even when a person feels tired, useless, without fruit - “I have labored in vain” - God does

not give up, but widens the mission: “I will make you a light to the nations.” Where we see limits, God sees wider paths.

The Psalm responds to this experience with a cry that is almost a whisper: “I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me.” God is not hurried, but neither is he distant. He is a God who bends down. This image is filled with deep tenderness: God does not shout at us from above, but stoops down to the level of our hearts, like a mother who leans close to her child to hear his breathing.

Saint Paul, at the beginning of his letter to the Corinthians, does not begin with reproaches, even though he knows very well how divided that community is. He begins with a blessing: “Grace to you and peace.” Before correcting, he comforts. Before setting things right, he blesses. This is profoundly evangelical: God never begins with reproach, but with grace. Not with fear, but with peace.

And then John sees Jesus coming toward him. He does not come with power, nor with spectacular signs. He comes as a lamb. A lamb does not impose, does not wound, does not shout. A lamb allows itself to be touched, to be led, to be offered. In a world that admires strength and success, God chooses fragility. In a world that constantly defends itself, God offers himself.

Perhaps this image helps us understand how God still works today. A father who comes home tired and, instead of withdrawing into silence, bends down to listen to his child’s story. A mother who keeps vigil at night beside a sick child, without applause or recognition. A person who forgives in silence, even though they have every reason to seek revenge. In all these small and fragile gestures, the Lamb of God continues to take away the sin of the world.

John the Baptist testifies that he recognised Jesus not through a logical explanation, but through the descent of the Spirit. God does not impose himself by force; he reveals himself to the attentive heart. Many times, we too recognise the Lord not in moments of success, but in moments of vulnerability: in a tear, in an unexpected forgiveness, in a peace that comes after long suffering.

This Sunday invites us to look more often at Jesus and less at ourselves. To show him to the world not through complicated speeches, but through lives that breathe gentleness. Through a faith that does not crush, but lifts up. That does not judge, but heals. That does not impose, but offers itself.

Perhaps we are not asked to be great prophets or famous apostles. But we are asked to be witnesses of the Lamb: in our families, in our communities, in our silences. And then, even if we feel that our effort is in vain, we will discover that God transforms every small gesture of love into a light that reaches farther than we ever imagined.

**Amen.**

### • **Remembered with Love, Commended to the Lord in Prayer**

I would like to invite our entire community to prayer for two people who were very dear to us and who passed away in the first half of this month. We remember **Mitzi Callinicos**, who died on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and **Muriel French**, who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

We do not know the details regarding the day or place of their funerals, but we entrust them with confidence to the mercy of God and invite everyone to pray for the eternal rest of their souls.

It is always painful to see beloved members leave the midst of our community. Yet we are strengthened by the hope that they have not gone far away, but are now with God, where one day we hope to arrive as well.

May the Lord forgive them their sins and welcome them into his peace. And may he grant us, who remain, the courage to continue living our lives with faith, hope, and sincere love.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

### • **Parish BINGO Night – Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 7pm**

We are happy to invite you to our Parish Bingo Night, an evening of joy, fellowship, and shared laughter within our parish family. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together, enjoy good food, play bingo, and strengthen the bonds of our community.

The evening will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026, starting at 7:00 pm, after the Saturday evening Mass.

Unfortunately, due to the current deterioration of the Parish Hall and concerns regarding safety, we will not be able to gather there for this event. Instead, we have hired the Hall behind the Library, located just next to our church, where we look forward to welcoming you.

This event is suitable for families, with tickets priced at £20 for adults and £10 for young people aged 10 to 15. Please note that the evening is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

Tickets will be available after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays.

During the evening, we will also hold a raffle to support our church, and we warmly welcome any donations toward raffle and bingo prizes.

We truly hope you will be able to join us for this special evening and help us continue to build a joyful and supportive parish community.