

Mass times and intentions: 24th January – 01st February 2026

Saturday	24	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	25	11.30 – Nora Kelly and Husband Desmond
Monday	26	No Mass
Tuesday	27	Feria 10.00 – Kelly Peackey – get well
Wednesday	28	St Thomas Aquinas 10.00 – Noel Hough RIP
Thursday	29	Feria 10.00 – Harris Family RIP
Friday	30	Feria 10.00 – Devasia Chackd RIP
Saturday	31	St John Bosco 10.00 – Esther Philips – intentions
		FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Da-Cunha Family – thanksgiving
Sunday	01	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 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.

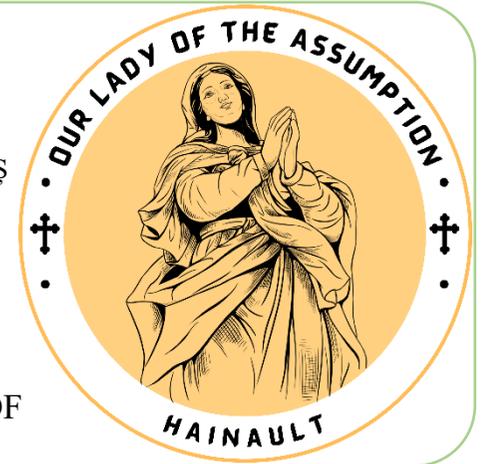
Mass Attendance last weekend: 280

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 739.73

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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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25th January 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
567 – Oh Lord, all the world belongs to you (v. 1, 2, 5)

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

128 – Come, Lord Jesus, come (1, 5, 6)

40 – Amazing grace!

246 – He is Lord, he is Lord

209 – God forgave my sin in Jesus' name

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel begins in an unexpected way: with a departure. "When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee." God begins the work of salvation not in a moment of glory, but in a moment of rupture, injustice, and forced silence. John, the prophet, is silenced. And precisely then, Jesus begins to speak.

There is a deep truth here: God does not wait for the world to be in order before He comes. He does not wait for ideal times. He enters history exactly where there is pain, fear, and loss. Galilee was not the religious centre, not the "pure" place, not the capital of faith. It was a mixed region, looked upon with suspicion - a margin. And Jesus chooses the margin.

The evangelist says: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." It does not say that the darkness disappeared. It does not say that the problems were solved. It simply says that a light appeared. God does not promise us a life without night, but a presence that illuminates the night.

Perhaps many of us today are living in our own Galilee: a place in life where not everything is clear, where there is weariness, doubt, maybe even failure. The Gospel does not condemn us for this. On the contrary, it says that this is exactly where Jesus comes. This is where He begins to preach.

And the first word He speaks is: "Repent." But this word is not a threat. It is not a reproach. It means: change direction, turn around, lift up your gaze. Not because you are bad, but because "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Not far away. Not reserved for the perfect. Close - so close that it can be missed if we are not attentive.

The Kingdom is not an idea. It is a presence. It is Jesus Himself passing through our lives.

Then the Gospel brings us to the seashore. Jesus sees ordinary people. They are not praying in the Temple, not studying Scripture. They are working. Their hands are busy, perhaps their hearts tired. And Jesus does not say to them: "Change your life and then come." He says: "Follow me." First the relationship, then the change.

It is striking: Jesus explains nothing. He promises nothing concrete. Only this: "I will make you fishers of men." And they leave their nets - not because they knew what would follow, but because they felt that this call touched something deep within them.

Perhaps we too ask God for too many guarantees. We want to know how it will turn out, how long it will last, what we will lose. Jesus invites us to trust - not blindly, but deeply. A trust that whispers: "If You are there, I can let go."

Here a saint helps us understand this more clearly.

When Saint Francis of Assisi was a young man, he had everything: wealth, security, social status, dreams of success. He was admired and admired life. And yet, inside, something remained empty. One day, while praying before a crucifix in the small church of San Damiano, he heard Christ say to him: "Francis, go and rebuild my Church."

Francis did not understand everything. He did not know where this path would lead. He only knew that Christ was calling him. Step by step, he began to let go: first his money, then his comforts, finally even his father's approval. The decisive moment came when he stood before the bishop and returned everything - even his clothes - saying: "From now on, I have only one Father: the Father in heaven."

Francis did not despise his former life. He simply recognised a greater call. He left his nets not because they were evil, but because Christ had opened before him a horizon wide enough for his heart.

So it is with the apostles. So it is with us. God does not call us to abandon life, but to live it more fully.

And Jesus goes on. He does not stop with those who say "yes." He continues to walk, to call, to heal. The Gospel ends with a tender image: Jesus among the people - teaching, proclaiming, healing. He does not select sufferings. He does not ask who deserves it. He draws close to all.

This is the image of the Kingdom: a God who draws near, who calls, who enlightens, who heals.

Perhaps today Jesus is passing again along the shore of our lives. Perhaps He sees us busy, tired, entangled in our nets. He does not shout. He does not force us. He simply says: "Follow me."

Let us not be afraid to let go of the nets that no longer give life. Let us not be afraid to follow Him, even if we cannot yet see the whole path. The light has already appeared in the darkness. The Kingdom is near. God is here.

Amen.

• Parish BINGO Night – Saturday, 7th 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, 7th 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.

• Diocesan Second Collection and Crib Offerings – Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

There will be a second collection after Masses next weekend which will be put together with our Crib Offerings for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Thank you.