

**Mass times and intentions: 21<sup>st</sup> February – 01<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 18.00 – Patrick-Francis RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	11.30 – The People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>23</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Tuesday of the First Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Usha – Thanksgiving and a good job
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Wednesday of the First Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Kanchan – a good marriage
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Thursday of the First Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Angelina Pallottolo RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Friday of the First Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Joyce Barroba – Intentions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Saturday of the First Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Beatrice Oghojafor – Birthday
		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 18.00 – Intentions of Sr. Immaculata and Sr. Patricia
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>01</b>	11.30 – The People of the Parish

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary** – Wednesday & Thursday, after the Holy Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** – Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, after the Holy Mass

**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: 246**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 712.9**

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

**CATHOLIC PARISH  
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass  
**351** – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

**Responsorial Psalm: *Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.***

- 40** – Amazing grace!
- 185** – Forty days and forty nights
- 147** – Do not be afraid
- S10** – Christ be our light!

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

Jesus has just been baptised. Heaven opened, the Father spoke, the Spirit came down. And right after this beautiful moment, the Gospel tells us something surprising: Jesus is led into the desert. He does not go looking for comfort or applause. He goes into silence, into loneliness, into struggle. It is as if, at the very start of Lent, Jesus is telling us: the journey with God also passes through dry places, questions, and trials.

Jesus fasts for forty days. He is hungry. He is tired. He is weak. And exactly then, the tempter comes. This is often how it happens in our lives too. Temptations do not come when we feel strong. They come when we are tired, when we feel alone, when things are hard.

The first temptation is very simple: “If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread.” It is the temptation to use power for yourself. To put your own needs first. To say, “I deserve this.” Jesus is hungry, but he does not change stones into bread. He answers, “Man does not live on bread alone.” It is as if

he is saying: there is a deeper hunger than the hunger of the body. It is the hunger for meaning, for love, for God.

We know this temptation well. When we want everything quickly. When we look for easy solutions. When we try to fill the empty places in our hearts with food, shopping, screens, noise. But the soul cannot be filled with bread. It needs prayer, silence, truth.

The second temptation is more subtle: “Throw yourself down... God will save you.” It is the temptation to test God. To ask for dramatic signs. To say, “God, if you are real, prove it now.” Jesus refuses. He does not use the Father as an emergency plan. Faith is not a test. It is daily trust, even when we do not see quick answers.

How many times have we said, especially in sickness or suffering: “God, if you love me, show me.” But God does not promise a life without the cross. He promises his presence in the middle of the cross.

The third temptation is the greatest: power. “I will give you all the kingdoms of the world.” It is the temptation to be on top at any cost. To control. To be more important than others. Jesus refuses again. He does not want a kingdom without the cross. He does not want glory without love. He chooses humility.

Here too we recognise ourselves. When we want the last word. When we protect our pride. When we want to be seen, praised, confirmed. But true power is not being above others. True power is loving. Serving. Staying faithful to what is good.

In the first reading, Adam falls into temptation. In the Gospel, Jesus stands firm. Adam listens to the voice of the lie. Jesus listens to the voice of the Father. Where humanity said “no,” Jesus says “yes.” He enters our struggle to show us that it is possible.

Lent is this time of truth. It is not about spiritual performance. It is about seeing what moves inside our hearts. Where we are weak. What attracts us. What steals our peace. It is a time when God does not judge us, but walks with us.

Think of a mother who wakes up at night for her child, even when she is exhausted. Think of a father who goes to work sick to support his family. Think of a grandmother or grandfather who prays every day for their grandchildren. These are quiet battles. These are small victories. This is where the Gospel is lived.

Maybe this Lent we will not do great things. But we can do sincere things. One more prayer. One act of kindness. One forgiveness. One small sacrifice. One visit. One moment given to someone. And all these, placed in God’s hands, become light.

Jesus leaves the desert stronger. Not because he was not tempted, but because he stayed close to the Father. And he shows us the way: we are not alone in the struggle. God is with us.

Today, at the beginning of Lent, Jesus gently says to us: “Come with me into the desert.” Not to lose yourself, but to find yourself. Not to feel guilty, but to be healed. Because Easter is born from this journey. Life is born from this struggle. And from every heart that says, “Lord, I need you,” God can create something new.

**Amen.**

- **Parish Council Meeting Reminder**

Please be reminded that our next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7:30 pm.**

If you would like any items raised or discussed at the meeting, please let our parish priest or a member of the parish committee know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our parish community.

- **Sunday Rosary Before Mass**

Starting **this Sunday**, at **11:00 am**, before Holy Mass, the Legion of Mary will lead the Rosary together with all those present.

Everyone is warmly invited to join in prayer.

- **Muriel French RIP – Funeral Arrangements**

Muriel’s Funeral will take place on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at 11.45am at The Sacred Heart Church, Pope Close, Flitwick; followed at 1:00pm at Flitwick Crematorium. Afterwards you are invited to The Crown, Station Road, Flitwick for refreshments. Thank you for your kind wishes and prayers.

- **With Loving Memories and Prayer**

With heavy hearts, we share the news that our dear parishioner Silveen Bakose Pritchard passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026, at the age of 91. She was a much-loved member of our community for 45 years. In the past 10 years, failing health led to her becoming homebound. She will be remembered for her gentle presence, kindness, and faith. She touched many lives, and she will be deeply missed. Her Vigil will be on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm and the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March** at 11:30am with burial at St. Patrick’s Catholic Cemetery, Leyton. A reception will follow at 2:00pm.

May the Lord welcome her into His eternal embrace, and may Mary, our Mother, comfort all who mourn. Amen.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend**

There will be a second collection after next weekend’s Masses for CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Thank you!