

Mass times and intentions: 14th – 22nd February 2026

Saturday	14	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Telma Bolivar and Dolor Gestiada RIP
Sunday	15	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	16	No Mass
Tuesday	17	Feria 10.00 – D’Souza Family – Thanksgiving
Wednesday	18	ASH WEDNESDAY 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP 20.00 – The People of the Parish
Thursday	19	Thursday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Friday	20	Friday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Efe Mekako – Birthday
Saturday	21	Saturday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Olusanya and Busari Family
		FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – Patrick-Francis RIP
Sunday	22	11.30 – The People of the Parish

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary** – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, after the Holy Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** – 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: 280

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 744.55

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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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 15th February 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
663 – Soul of my Savior

Responsorial Psalm:

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

- 90** – Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation
- 662** – Sons of God (v. 1, 4, 6)
- 499** – My God loves me
- 84** – Blessed assurance

Dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus stands again before the people and speaks. He does not raise his voice. He does not threaten. But his words are strong and reach deep into the heart. “I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfil it.” It is as if he were saying, “I have not come to make your life harder. I have come to show you the heart of God.” Around him are people who know the commandments. They learned them as children: “You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not swear falsely.” But Jesus goes one step further. He is not satisfied with correct behaviour on the outside. He enters the heart. Because real life begins there. Real faith begins there.

“You have heard that it was said... but I say to you.” Jesus does not cancel the commandments. He deepens them. For him, it is not enough not to kill with your hands. It is already too much if you kill with words, with contempt, with indifference. It is not enough to avoid visible evil. What happens inside matters.

And here the Gospel becomes very real. You may never hit anyone, yet hurt people every day with harsh words. You may look faithful on the outside, yet betray with your eyes, your thoughts, or your lack of care. You may steal nothing, yet refuse your time, your forgiveness, your patience.

Jesus shows us that sin does not begin with actions. It begins in the heart.

Today, the Book of Sirach tells us something very important: God places before us life and death, good and evil - and he leaves us free to choose. God does not force us to be good. He invites us. He respects our freedom. But every small choice shapes our heart.

It is like choosing every day how you speak to the people in your home. Maybe no one sees, but here families are built or slowly broken. It is like choosing silence instead of anger. Or choosing to say, "I'm sorry," even when pride resists. These are small decisions, but they shape the soul.

Jesus speaks about anger. Not the sudden anger that comes and goes, but the anger we keep, feed, and turn into resentment. We all know how this works: a hurtful word, an injustice, an old wound. Slowly, the heart closes. We avoid, we judge, we speak badly of others. Jesus says: stop. Go and be reconciled. Because a hardened heart cannot receive grace.

Think of two brothers who have not spoken for years because of an inheritance. Or neighbours divided over a fence. Or spouses living under the same roof, but with walls between them. Jesus does not say, "Leave it, it will pass." He says, "Take the first step." Even if it hurts. Even if you are not the main one at fault. Because peace is worth more than cold justice.

Then Jesus speaks about faithfulness. Not only faithfulness of the body, but faithfulness of the heart. In a world full of images, temptations, and comparisons, Jesus calls us to pure love, to respectful looks, to relationships that do not use people, but give themselves. It is a difficult road, but a beautiful one. Because true love does not consume - it builds.

And he also says something very simple: "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no." In other words, be real people. People who do not play games. Who do not promise what they cannot keep. Who do not say one thing and do another. Children quickly feel when adults are not sincere. Communities feel it too. Truth lived in small things creates trust. Even small lies destroy it.

Saint Paul reminds us today that in all this, the Spirit of God is at work. We are not alone. God knows our hearts and gives us the strength to go deeper. Christianity is not a list of rules. It is a living relationship with God that changes us from the inside.

This Gospel is not about perfection. It is about sincerity. Not about people without faults, but about people who allow God to shape their hearts.

Maybe today we cannot live everything fully. Maybe we still get angry too easily. Maybe we carry old wounds. Maybe it is hard to forgive or to stay faithful. But we can do one thing: open our hearts and say, "Lord, start with me."

Because Jesus is not looking for perfect saints on display. He is looking for open hearts. Hearts that want to love more. Hearts that are not satisfied with a surface faith. Hearts that have the courage to go deeper.

And maybe this is the message of this Sunday: God does not want only our good actions. He wants our heart. And when we give him our heart, slowly and patiently, he turns our life into a place where heaven already begins to appear.

Amen.

• **Bingo Night – An Evening of Fun, Food, and Prizes!**

We have set a new milestone, raising an impressive £2,582! The overheads of the evening including the hall hire and bar staff have been funded by the generous donations of our parishioners, hence every penny collected from the £2,582 will go towards our Church Fund.

We extend a big thank you to everyone who contributed towards the Bingo evening especially to those who worked tirelessly to make the evening a great success. It was a night filled with fun, delicious food, fellowship and lively conversation, not forgetting the good-natured repartee between our two fabulous Bingo Hosts of the evening.

With the continued support of our parishioners, we look forward to hosting more events like this in the future. Thank you!

• **A Holy Time Begins: Lent**

This week we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the day that begins the holy season of Lent. It is a special time when God invites us to return to Him with open hearts. The ashes remind us that life is fragile, but also that God is rich in mercy. Lent is not only about giving things up - it is about making room for God through prayer, kindness, and forgiveness.

Let us live this holy season as a gift. Let us bring before the Lord our families, the sick, our worries, and our hopes. May this Lent help us grow closer to God and to one another.

God is waiting for us - and, as always, He waits for us with mercy.