

Mass times and intentions: 18th – 26th April 2026

Saturday	18	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	19	11.30 – Ayomide Ishmael and Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Monday	20	NO MASS
Tuesday	21	Tuesday of the Third Week of Easter 10.00 – Irene Moore RIP
Wednesday	22	Wednesday of the Third Week of Easter 10.00 – Emilia and her intentions
Thursday	23	ST GEORGE 10.00 – Angela Williams – get well
Friday	24	St Mellitus 10.00 – David Grace RIP
Saturday	25	ST MARK 10.00 – Henry Horan RIP
		FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	26	11.30 – Stella Housden 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.

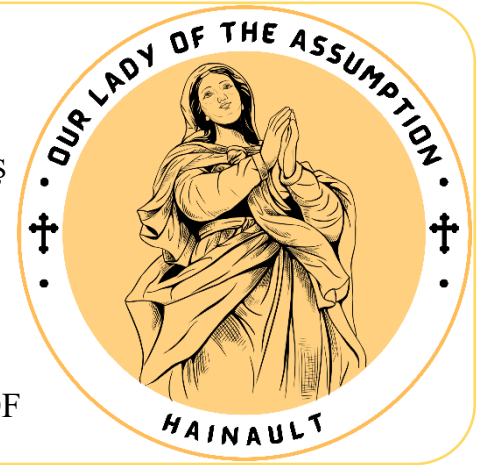
Mass Attendance last weekend: 275

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 980.51

Please consider SUPPORTING our Parish with a donation		
Donate by bank transfer or standing order:	Scan to donate:	Donate via the Parish website:
Account Name: Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 31019244		https://hainault.org.uk/donations/
Please sign up to Gift Aid if you are a UK tax payer. Gift Aid allows the parish to receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate - at no additional cost to you		

**CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 19th April 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass
289 – I will be with you wherever you go

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

S3 – Gifts of bread and wine, gifts we've offered

596 – Peace is the gift of heaven to earth

147 – Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you

728 – Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel speaks about two disciples who are leaving Jerusalem. They are sad, disappointed, with heavy hearts. Everything they hoped for seems lost. Jesus has died. Their dream has fallen apart. And now they walk along the road, talking, trying to understand, but without light.

It is a road we also know. There are moments in life when we leave our "Jerusalem" - the place of hope - and walk towards "Emmaus," towards confusion and discouragement. Moments when we say, "We had hoped... but it did not happen." Moments when faith feels far away and God seems silent. And exactly on this road, Jesus comes close to them.

He does not stop them. He does not tell them immediately who he is. He walks with them. He listens. He asks questions. He enters into their story. It is a very beautiful detail: God does not force himself into our lives, but comes close gently, step by step.

But the Gospel says their eyes were kept from recognising him. Jesus is there, next to them, and still, they do not see him. How often does this happen to us? God is close, but we do not recognise him. He is in a word that comforts us, in a person who helps us, in the silence of prayer, but we are too focused on our problems to see.

Jesus begins to explain the Scriptures to them. He speaks about the meaning of suffering, about God's plan, about the fact that the journey does not end at the cross. And without realising it, something begins to change in their hearts.

Later they say, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?"

This is faith: not only understanding with the mind, but feeling the heart on fire. There are moments when God does not change the situation around us, but he changes our hearts. And suddenly, the road does not seem so heavy.

They arrive at their destination, and Jesus acts as if he will go further. He does not force himself. He waits for an invitation. And they say, "Stay with us." What a simple and beautiful prayer: "Stay with us, Lord." It is the prayer of every person who feels that without God, darkness is coming into the heart.

Then at the table, Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. It is the same gesture as at the Last Supper. And in that moment, their eyes are opened and they recognise him.

They recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

Brothers and sisters, we also recognise Jesus in the Eucharist. Every time we come to Holy Mass, we live this journey to Emmaus: we listen to the Word, we feel our hearts begin to warm, and then we meet Jesus in the broken bread.

But the Gospel does not end there. After they recognise him, they do not stay there. They get up immediately and return to Jerusalem. It is night, they are tired, but they are full of joy. Because when you truly meet Jesus, you cannot remain the same. You cannot keep it only for yourself. You want to tell others.

Maybe today we are also on this road. Maybe we come with questions, with tiredness, with disappointment. The Gospel tells us something very simple and very beautiful: we are not walking alone. Jesus walks with us.

Even if we do not see him. Even if we do not always recognise him. He is there.

And maybe the most beautiful prayer we can say today is this: "Stay with us, Lord." Stay with us in our families, in our joys, in our struggles. Stay with us when we do not understand, when life is hard, when we lose hope.

Because when Jesus stays, the heart begins to burn again. The eyes begin to see. And the road, even if it is long, becomes full of light.

So, at the end, let us keep this simple and powerful truth in our hearts: Jesus is alive. Jesus lives. Christ is risen.

And he is not far away... he is here, with us, in every step of our life.

Amen.

• Refreshments after Sunday Mass

I would like to invite you to join us for refreshments after the Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee, some biscuits and a chance to meet, socialise and get to know each other.

• Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession is available every Saturday during Adoration and Holy Rosary and on request on weekdays during Adoration and Holy Rosary after the morning Mass.

• Keeping Our Parish Safe – Safeguarding Update

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs) are volunteers who work closely with the Parish Priest to support and promote safeguarding within the parish community. They play an important role in raising awareness and helping to ensure that our parish remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

As you may know, *Shirley Ruiz* and *Christine Muirden* are our Parish Safeguarding Representatives.

All adult parish volunteers are required to complete Level 1 safeguarding training as a minimum. Shirley and/or Christine will be contacting all parish volunteers with further details. Please complete the training and send them a copy of your certificate.

If you lead a group, please ensure that all members of your group are aware of and comply with the training requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley or Christine, or email safeguarding-hainault@brcdt.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

• Looking for a Special Gift?

As we approach the celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish, why not visit our Repository at the back of the church?

You will find a thoughtful selection of cards and gifts for these important moments, as well as for many other occasions.

• Diocesan Second Collection

After both Masses next weekend, there will be a Diocesan second collection for the Promotion of Vocations. Thank you for your generosity.