

**Mass times and intentions: 02<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

|                  |           |  |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>02</b> | <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b><br>18.00 – Anne Kelly  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>03</b> | 11.30 – The People of the Parish   |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>04</b> | NO MASS  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>05</b> | <b>Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter</b><br>10.00 – Silveen Pritchard RIP                |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>06</b> | <b>St John Payne</b><br>10.00 – Olusanya and Busari Families                               |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>07</b> | <b>Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter</b><br>10.00 – Joseph Mastracci and his intentions |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>08</b> | <b>Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter</b><br>10.00 – David Underwood                       |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>09</b> | <b>Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter</b><br>10.00 – Muriel French RIP                   |
|                  |           | <b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b><br>18.00 – Tommy Farrell RIP                                 |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>10</b> | 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: 259**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 581.93**

| <b>Please consider SUPPORTING our Parish with a donation</b>   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Donate by bank transfer or standing order:   | Scan to donate:   | Donate via the Parish website:  |
| <b>Account Name:</b><br>Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption<br><b>Sort Code:</b> 40-13-22<br><b>Account Number:</b> 31019244                                   |  | <a href="https://hainault.org.uk/donations/">https://hainault.org.uk/donations/</a> |
| Please sign up to Gift Aid if you are a UK tax payer.<br>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**

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDES  
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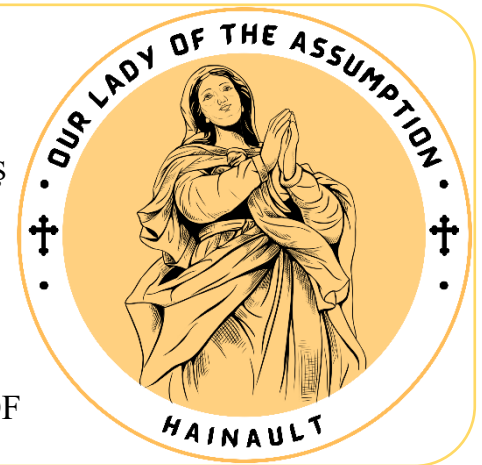
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98, Manford Way, Hainault, IG7 4DF



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

197 – For the healing of the nations

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.*

143 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind (v. 1, 2, 4)

246 – He is Lord, he is Lord

280 – I received the living God

399 – Love is his word, love is his way (v. 1, 2, 6, 7)

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

On this holy day, as our hearts have gathered around the altar, I gently invite you to set aside, for a moment, the rush, the worries, and the noise of the world, and to enter into a place of deep stillness. Let us open our souls like a home in which the Lord desires to dwell. The words of today’s Gospel are not only meant to be heard, but to be received, lived, and treasured as a living light within us.

The Lord Jesus tells us: “Let not your hearts be troubled.” Such simple words... and yet so difficult to live. Because our hearts are so easily shaken. They are troubled when illness comes, when burdens weigh us down, when someone we love hurts us or leaves us, when the future feels uncertain. And perhaps even today, here among us, there are souls carrying deep anxieties, unanswered questions, and silent fears.

And it is precisely there, in that fragile place of the heart, that Jesus comes and says: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” He does not ask us to have no problems. He does not promise a life without trials. Instead, He offers something deeper: His presence. He offers us the assurance that we are not alone.

Jesus continues: “In my Father’s house are many rooms ... I go to prepare a place for you.” What a tender and beautiful image. He does not speak of heaven as an abstract idea, but as a home. A place prepared for each one of us. A place where we are awaited, known by name, and loved without measure.

How many of us have felt the joy of being expected at home? To know that someone is waiting for you, that your place is kept, that you are wanted... This is God’s promise for us. We are not wanderers without direction. Our life has meaning, a path, and a destination.

And yet, the apostle Thomas asks: “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” It is a sincere question, and in many ways, it is our question too. How often do we feel lost? How often do we say: “Lord, I don’t know where to go, I don’t understand what is happening?”

And Jesus gives one of the most powerful and beautiful answers: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

He does not say: “I will show you a way.” He says: “I am the way.” This means we do not only need directions, but a relationship. We do not only need answers, but His living presence.

When life becomes complicated, we look for solutions. But Jesus offers something deeper: He offers Himself. He becomes our path when we no longer know where to go. He becomes our truth when we are confused. He becomes our life when we feel empty within.

Jesus also tells us something both challenging and uplifting: “Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do” How is this possible? We, simple people, with weaknesses and limits? And yet, yes. Because we are not alone. Because God works through us when our hearts are open.

We may not perform great miracles in the eyes of the world, but we can do quiet miracles: to love when it is hard, to forgive when it hurts, to remain faithful when everything seems to shake.

Dear brothers and sisters, today’s Gospel does not ask complicated things of us. It invites us to trust. To a quiet, deep trust that says: “Lord, I do not understand everything, but I choose to walk with You.” And perhaps this is the greatest consolation for the soul: to know that you do not need to have all the answers. You only need to remain close to the One who is the Way.

Let us leave this place today carrying these words in our hearts: “Let not your hearts be troubled.” Let us repeat them when anxiety comes. Let us whisper them in prayer. Let us offer them to others as a gentle comfort.

For the Lord does not only speak to us... He remains with us. He walks with us. He prepares a place for us. And He loves us more than we can ever understand.

**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.

#### • **First Holy Communion**

This year, 17 children from our parish will receive their First Holy Communion at the 11:30am Mass on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**. As they receive this very important Sacrament, we ask you to hold them, their families, and their catechists in your prayers, that God may bless them and gently guide them as they grow in faith and deepen their relationship with our Lord.

#### • **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.

#### • **Receiving Holy Communion**

As Catholics we believe that the Holy Eucharist is the true **Body and Blood of Jesus Christ**. Receiving Holy Communion is both an expression of this faith and of our communion with the Catholic Church. Practicing Roman Catholics may receive Holy Communion if they are **free from grave sin** and have also **fasted from food and drink for one hour prior**. Holy Communion can be received **either on the tongue or the hand**, but it has to be received with reverence and needs to be consumed in front of the Minister. (If you receive Holy Communion on the hand, please extend the hands on top of each other and flat, as a throne for Our Eucharistic Lord). If you belong to another Christian community, other faith or none, you **cannot receive Holy Communion**. You are very welcome however to join the queue and ask for a  **blessing** instead. Please indicate this by **crossing your arms over your chest**.