

Mass times and intentions: 20th – 28th June 2026

Saturday	20	TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	21	11.30 – Eddie and Sheila Baker
Monday	22	NO MASS
Tuesday	23	Feria of Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Cathleen Clarke RIP
Wednesday	24	NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 10.00 – James McCarthy RIP
Thursday	25	Feria of Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 –Phil Boyle RIP and Margaret Boyle’s intentions
Friday	26	Feria of Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Anthony Davitt RIP
Saturday	27	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10.00 – Gerry Tighe and his intentions
		SS PETER AND PAUL 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	28	11.30 – Silveen Bakose Pritchard 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.

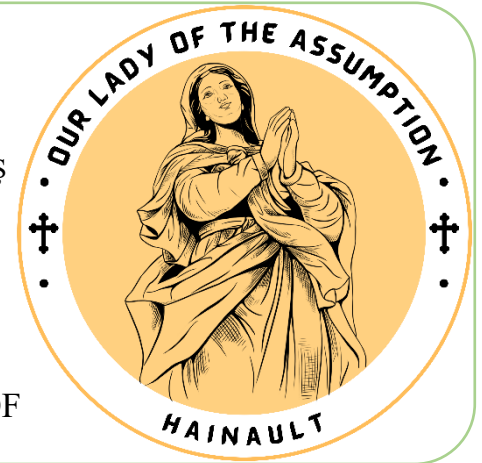
Mass Attendance last weekend: 264

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 624.65

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

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDEŞ
 020 8500 3953; 07735 416319
hainault@brcdt.org
finance-hainault@brcdt.org
safeguarding-hainault@brcdt.org
www.hainault.org.uk
 98, Manford Way, Hainault, IG7 4DF



TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 21st June 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

73 – Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side

Responsorial Psalm: *In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.*

302 – In bread we bring you, Lord, our bodies’ labour

383 – Lord, Jesus Christ

289 – I will be with you wherever you go

S12 – Walk in the light

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel we have heard today begins with a message that comes like a gentle comfort from the heart of God: “Do not be afraid.” Three times in just a few verses, Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid. It is as if he knew that, throughout the centuries, we too would need to hear these words again and again.

We live in a world where fear is everywhere. We worry about our health, our children, our families, our jobs, and the future. Sometimes we are even afraid to show our faith, to say that we pray, that we come to church, that we love God. Fear has a way of making our hearts smaller and making us forget who we really are.

But today Jesus looks at us with the same love with which he looked at his apostles and says: “Do not be afraid.” Notice that Jesus does not say, “You will have no troubles.” He does not say, “Everyone will understand you.” He does

not say, "Life will be easy." Instead, he says something much deeper: "Do not be afraid, because your Father is with you."

To help us understand how precious we are in God's eyes, Jesus speaks about sparrows. In his time, two sparrows could be bought for almost nothing. They were among the smallest and least important birds in the marketplace. Yet Jesus says that not even one of them falls to the ground without the Father knowing it.

Then he adds something beautiful: "even the hairs of your head are all numbered." This is not a lesson about numbers. It is a message of love. God knows us so well that nothing in our lives is unimportant to him. He sees the tear that no one else notices. He hears the prayer that we are afraid to say aloud. He knows the burden we carry quietly in our hearts.

There is a simple story that helps us understand this. A small child was walking through a crowded store with his father. Suddenly, the crowd separated them. The child became frightened and began to cry. For a moment, he felt alone and lost. But his father had never stopped watching him. Within seconds he reached him, lifted him into his arms, and said, "I never lost sight of you."

Many times, this is our situation as well. We feel that we have lost God. We feel alone. We cannot see the way forward. But God has never lost sight of us. He continues to watch over us with the love of a Father who never abandons his children.

Perhaps someone here today is asking, "If God loves me so much, why do I have difficulties?" The Gospel does not promise a life without crosses. Jesus himself carried the cross. But it does promise that no cross is carried alone.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, in the Auschwitz concentration camp, saw a man who had been chosen to die. The man was crying because of his family. Father Kolbe offered his own life in that man's place. From a human point of view, everything seemed lost. Yet in the middle of that darkness, his faith shone brighter than fear. What gave him such courage? The certainty that his life was in God's hands and that love is stronger than death.

Most of us will never be asked to make such a great sacrifice. But every day we are called to small acts of courage: to forgive someone who has hurt us, to speak the truth when it would be easier to remain silent, to make the sign of the cross without embarrassment, to pray with our family, to encourage someone who is discouraged, and to remain faithful in a world that often forgets God.

Then Jesus says, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven." These words are not a threat. They are an invitation to love. When you truly love someone, you are not ashamed of that person. A mother speaks proudly about her child. A grandfather

happily shows pictures of his grandchildren. Someone who is in love does not hide the person he loves.

So why should we be ashamed of Christ?

To witness to our faith does not always mean giving great speeches. Sometimes it simply means living a good and beautiful life. Saint Francis of Assisi is often remembered for saying: "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."

Many people may never open a Bible, but they will read our lives. They will see our patience in suffering. They will see our peace during difficult times. They will see our kindness when others respond with anger. And through us, they may come to believe that God is real.

Dear brothers and sisters, today the Lord wants to heal many fears in our hearts: fear of the future, fear of failure, fear of illness, fear of loneliness, fear of what other people might think. He reminds us that we are not just faces in a crowd. We are beloved sons and daughters of God. We are so precious that the Son of God gave his life for us on the cross.

Perhaps this week we will face difficulties. Perhaps not all our problems will disappear. But if we leave this church today with one truth in our hearts, let it be this: God knows me, God loves me, and God will never abandon me. When fear comes, remember the sparrows in today's Gospel. If the Heavenly Father cares for them, how much more does he care for you. When you feel that no one understands you, remember that God even knows the number of hairs on your head. When you are tempted to hide your faith, remember that Jesus was not ashamed to carry the cross for you.

And then, with hearts full of trust, we can move forward repeating the words that the Lord speaks to each one of us today: "Do not be afraid. You are precious in my eyes. I am with you."

Amen.

• Diocesan Second Collections

This weekend, after both Masses, there will be a second collection for 'Day for Life'. This funds the Bishops' Conference contribution to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, the production of human life materials and other designated charities as determined annually.

Next weekend after both Masses there will be a Diocesan Collection for 'Peter's Pence'. This is an annual worldwide collection where we make voluntary donations directly to the Pope. The funds support the universal mission of the Holy See and go towards global humanitarian initiatives, social promotion projects, and disaster relief. Thank you for your generosity.