

Mass times and intentions: 25th July – 02nd August 2026

Saturday	25	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Dan Harley and the Harley Family intentions
Sunday	26	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	27	NO MASS
Tuesday	28	Feria of Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Ann and John Long RIP
Wednesday	29	Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus 10.00 – Gail Hewett – intentions
Thursday	30	Feria of Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Bridget Baker – intentions
Friday	31	St Ignatius of Loyola 10.00 – Thanksgiving
Saturday	01	St Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori 10.00 – Joakim and Maria Vas
		EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – P. J. John RIP
Sunday	02	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: 240

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 595.58

Please consider SUPPORTING our Parish with a donation		
Donate by bank transfer or standing order:	Scan to donate:	Donate via the Parish website:
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CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDEŞ
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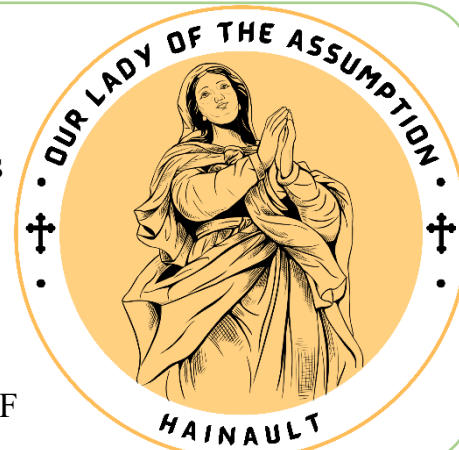
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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26th July 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

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

Responsorial Psalm: O Lord, how I love your law!

159 – Father, I place into your hands (v. 1, 2, 4)

633 – Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

401 – Water of life

209 – God forgave my sin in Jesus' name

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us three simple pictures: a hidden treasure, a pearl of great value, and a fishing net cast into the sea. Although they are different images, they all lead us to the same question: What is the greatest treasure in my life? If someone were to ask us that question today, many of us would answer: my family, my health, my children, my friends, or perhaps the peace and security we long for. These are all wonderful gifts from God.

But Jesus invites us to look even deeper. He tells us that there is one treasure that gives meaning to every other gift we have. That treasure is the Kingdom of Heaven - God living and reigning in our hearts.

In the first parable, a man unexpectedly discovers a treasure hidden in a field. He was not looking for it, but the moment he finds it, he realises that nothing else can compare with it. There is one detail that is easy to miss. The Gospel says that "in his joy" he goes and sells everything he has in order to buy that field.

He does not walk away feeling sorry for himself. He does not complain about what he has to leave behind. He does not say, "What a shame that I have to give up so much." He goes full of joy. That is the sign of someone who has truly encountered God. When we discover Christ, faith is no longer simply a duty. It becomes a joy.

Pope Francis often reminded us that a sad Christian is a contradiction. Not because Christians never suffer, but because, even in the midst of suffering, they know they have found the one treasure that can never be taken away.

Perhaps, if we are honest, there are times when we live our faith more out of obligation than out of love. We come to Mass because we know we should. We pray because it is expected. We keep certain traditions because we have always done so. But Jesus is inviting us to something much deeper. He wants us to rediscover the beauty of knowing him.

There is a lovely story about an elderly violinist who owned an old violin that appeared to have very little value. After his death, the instrument was put up for auction. People offered only small amounts of money. Then another musician asked if he might play it for a few moments. He lifted the violin, began to play, and the whole room fell silent. When the music ended, the value of the violin had changed completely, and it was sold for an astonishing price. What had changed? Not the violin. Only the eyes of those who had finally recognised its true worth.

God has never changed. He has always been the greatest treasure. Sometimes it is we who forget his value. We become so busy with what seems urgent that we lose sight of what is truly important.

The second parable speaks about a merchant searching for fine pearls. Unlike the first man, this one has been searching for a long time. When he finally finds the pearl of great price, he willingly gives up everything else. Some people discover God unexpectedly. Others search for him for many years. But when they truly meet him, they realise that nothing else compares.

Saint Augustine spent years searching for happiness in success, ambition and pleasure. After his conversion, he wrote those famous words that still touch hearts today: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Isn't that the story of so many lives? We look for peace in money. In success. In recognition. In the things we own. Yet, after a little while, something inside us still feels empty. Only God can fill the human heart, because the human heart was created for God.

Finally, Jesus speaks about the net that gathers fish of every kind. It reminds us that God calls everyone. No one is excluded from his love. But it also reminds us that our lives are moving towards an encounter with the Lord. Not so that we live in fear. But so that we live each day with purpose and hope.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps the most important question today is not, "What do I own?" but, "What treasure do I carry in my heart?"

Because where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.

If our treasure is only the things that pass away, our hearts will never truly be at peace. But if Christ is our treasure, then no one can take away our peace.

As we continue this Holy Mass today, let us ask the Lord for one simple grace: to open our eyes once again to the beauty of our faith. May we not seek him only when life becomes difficult, but love him because he is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Then we shall discover that true wealth is not found in what we hold in our hands, but in the One we carry in our hearts.

And if Christ lives in our hearts, we are richer than we could ever imagine.

Amen.

• **Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mrs Kathleen Simpson**

We ask you to keep in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Mrs Kathleen Simpson (Kathy)**, who died on **4th July 2026**, at the age of 99.

Kathleen will be remembered as a kind and open-hearted woman, whose life reflected a deep love for both people and the beauty of God's creation. She devoted many years of her life to serving others as a nurse, showing extraordinary patience, compassion, and gentle care, especially to those living with mental health difficulties. Through her quiet dedication, she brought comfort, dignity, and hope to countless people. Her life was a beautiful example of compassion, humility, and selfless service.

Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated in our church on **Wednesday, 29th July 2026, at 11:30 a.m.** Please keep Kathleen's son, Adrian, and all her family in your prayers as they mourn her passing and give thanks for her long and faithful life.

**Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.**

• **Parish Feast Day Celebration**

A gentle reminder to all parishioners that our **Parish Feast Day** will be celebrated on **Sunday, 16th August 2026**.

Following the 11:30 a.m. Mass, everyone is warmly invited to join us for a parish celebration. It will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as one parish family, giving thanks to God and celebrating our community.

We would be most grateful for any help in making the day a success.

If you are able to:

- prepare or bring a dish to share;
- help with setting up before the celebration; or
- assist with clearing up afterwards,

please add your name, telephone number, and indicate how you would like to help on one of the sign-up sheets available at the back of the church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. With everyone's help, we can make this a truly joyful and memorable celebration for our whole parish community.