

Mass times and intentions: 01st – 09th August 2026

Saturday	01	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – P. J. John RIP
Sunday	02	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	03	NO MASS
Tuesday	04	St John Vianney 10.00 – Olusanya and Busari Families – blessings
Wednesday	05	Feria of Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Ann Walsh RIP
Thursday	06	THE TRANSFIGURATION 10.00 – Peter Philips – birthday
Friday	07	Feria of Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Thanksgiving
Saturday	08	St Dominic 10.00 – For all our benefactors
		NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Margaret Fell
Sunday	09	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: 252

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 749.45

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
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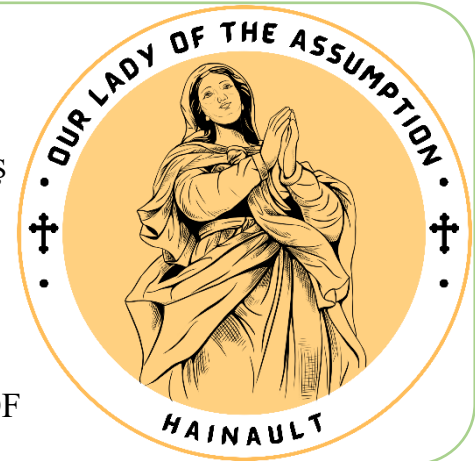
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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 02nd August 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

10 - Across the years there echoes still (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Responsorial Psalm: *You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.*

301 - Immortal, invisible, God only wise (v. 1, 2, 4)

37 - Alleluia, sing to Jesus (v. 1, 3, 4)

757 - Vaster far than any ocean

568 - O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel begins with a moment of deep sadness. Jesus has just received the news of the death of John the Baptist. Like any one of us, he longs for a little time alone. He withdraws to a quiet place to pray and to rest in the presence of his Father. But the crowds hear where he has gone and follow him.

Perhaps, if we had been in his place, we might have reacted differently. We might have said, "Not today. I need some peace. Please leave me alone." But the Gospel tells us something truly beautiful. "He had compassion on them." Even in the middle of his own sorrow, Jesus sees the sorrow of others. That is what real love looks like. It does not become trapped in its own pain but continues to notice the needs of those nearby.

Pope Francis often reminded us that the greatest poverty in today's world is not always the lack of bread, but the lack of love and compassion. So many people have a comfortable home and everything they seem to need, yet they still feel unseen, unheard and deeply alone.

Jesus sees that hidden hunger. That is why, before he feeds the crowd with bread, he first draws close to them. He listens to them. He heals the sick. He restores hope. Because God does not feed only our bodies. He feeds our hearts.

As the day goes on, the disciples become anxious. It is getting late, and the people are hungry. They say to Jesus, "send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." It sounds like a sensible solution. But Jesus replies with words that still surprise us today: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." What a remarkable invitation.

The disciples look at what they have. Only five loaves and two fish. It seems so little. Far too little. Perhaps we often think in the same way. "What can I possibly do?" "I'm only one person." "I don't have enough money." "I don't have enough time." "I'm not good enough." We are often tempted to focus on what we lack.

But God never begins with what we do not have. He begins with what we are willing to place in his hands. God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful. God is not asking us for extraordinary things. He is asking for our hearts. Five loaves and two fish seemed hopelessly inadequate for a crowd of thousands. Yet, in the hands of Jesus, what seemed so little became more than enough. Not because there was plenty of bread. But because it had been placed into the right hands.

There is a lovely story about a little boy walking along a beach after a storm. Thousands of starfish had been washed ashore and were slowly dying in the sun. One by one, the boy picked them up and threw them back into the sea. A man watching him said, "There's no point. There are far too many. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy picked up another starfish, gently threw it back into the water and replied, "It made all the difference to that one."

That is how God works. He does not ask us to save the whole world. He asks us to love the person standing in front of us today. To speak a kind word. To give a little of our time. To visit someone who is sick or lonely. To forgive. To listen. To share what we have. It may seem like very little. But in God's hands, our little becomes a blessing for many.

Notice what Jesus does before the miracle. He takes the bread. He looks up to heaven. He gives thanks. He breaks the bread. And he gives it to the disciples. It is impossible to hear those words without thinking of the Holy Eucharist. Every time we gather for Holy Mass, Jesus continues to do exactly the same. He takes the bread. He blesses it. He breaks it. And then he gives himself to us as the Bread of Life.

The deepest hunger of the human heart is not the hunger for ordinary bread. It is the hunger for God. That is why, even after everyone had eaten and was satisfied, there were still twelve baskets left over. God's grace is always greater than our need. His generosity always exceeds our expectations.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps today each one of us has come to Mass carrying only "five loaves and two fish". Perhaps we feel we have only a little faith. A little hope. A little strength. A little patience. Perhaps we even feel that we have almost nothing left to offer. But Jesus does not ask how much we have. He simply asks whether we are willing to place what we have into his hands. If we entrust our little to him, he will do what we could never do by ourselves.

As we continue this Holy Mass today, let us leave with one simple conviction: God does not need perfect people. He needs willing hearts. When we lovingly place into

his hands all that we are and all that we have, however small it may seem, he transforms it into a blessing that can nourish many others.

And perhaps that is the greatest miracle in today's Gospel: not simply that the loaves were multiplied, but that, in the hands of Christ, the small gifts we offer become the abundance of God's love.

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.

• **Parish Hall Closure**

After much reflection and careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to close the Parish Hall until further notice.

This decision has not been taken lightly. Over the years, water ingress has caused the hall floor to deteriorate significantly, and we have reached the point where we can no longer guarantee the safety of those using the building. Our first responsibility is to protect everyone who comes to our parish, and for this reason we believe it is right to close the hall now rather than risk a future accident.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be assessing the full extent of the damage and exploring the best and most responsible way to carry out the necessary repairs. Our priority is to prevent the situation from becoming worse before beginning any restoration work.

While this is certainly disappointing, it is also an opportunity to look to the future with hope. Time and again, our parish community has shown remarkable generosity, dedication and faith. Together, with God's grace, we have cared for and improved our church and the presbytery, ensuring that they remain welcoming and beautiful places for worship and parish life.

I firmly believe that, with the Lord's help and through the kindness of our benefactors and parishioners, we will one day be able to restore and improve our Parish Hall as well. What may seem like a setback today can, by God's grace, become the beginning of something even better for future generations.

Thank you for your understanding, your patience, your prayers, and your continued support of our parish. May the Lord bless you abundantly for all that you do for our community.