

Mass times and intentions: 08th – 16th August 2026

Saturday	08	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Margaret Fell
Sunday	09	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	10	NO MASS
Tuesday	11	St Clare 10.00 – Esther Philips – birthday
Wednesday	12	Feria of Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Anna-Leah – healing
Thursday	13	Feria of Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Frederick Oghojafor RIP
Friday	14	St Maximilian Kolbe 10.00 – Fr. Tarciziu – birthday
Saturday	15	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10.00 – Clayton Eadon – anniversary
		ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 18.00 – Fabian D'Souza – birthday
Sunday	16	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: 241

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 551.30

Please consider SUPPORTING our Parish with a donation		
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Account Name: Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 31019244		https://hainault.org.uk/donations/
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CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZIU ERDEŞ
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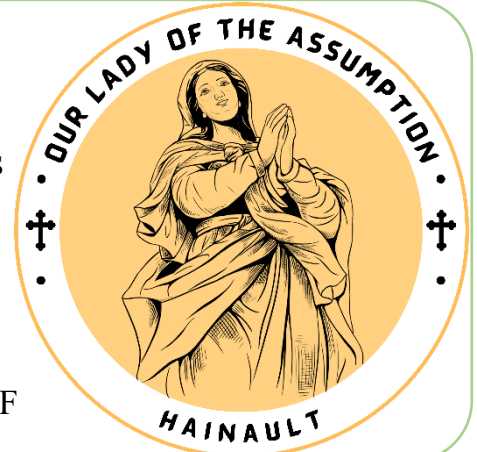
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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 09th August 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

73 - Be still my soul: the lord is on your side

Responsorial Psalm:

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

147 - Do not be afraid (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

289 - I will be with you

71 - Be still and know that I am God

765 - Walk with me, oh my Lord (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel gives us a powerful image that we can all recognise. It is night. The disciples are out on the lake. The wind is against them. The waves are crashing against the boat. Everything feels uncertain.

Perhaps, as we listen to this Gospel, many of us quietly say in our hearts, "That feels like my life." Because we all experience storms. Sometimes it is the storm of illness. Sometimes it is the storm of family difficulties. Sometimes it is the worry we carry for our children or grandchildren. Sometimes it is loneliness. Sometimes it is the unexpected news that turns our lives upside down. Sometimes it is a cross that we carry in silence, one that no one else knows about. Sooner or later, every one of us finds ourselves caught in a storm.

What is striking in today's Gospel is that the storm did not come because the disciples had done something wrong. In fact, they were exactly where Jesus had told them to be.

This reminds us of an important truth. Being close to Christ does not mean we will never face difficulties. Faith does not protect us from every storm. But it does promise that we will never face the storm alone.

Then something extraordinary happens. Jesus comes towards them, walking on the water. But they do not recognise him. They think he is a ghost.

How often do we do exactly the same? God is close, but we think he has abandoned us. God is quietly at work, but we think he is silent. God is walking beside us, but we feel completely alone.

Then Jesus speaks one of the most comforting sentences in the whole Gospel: **"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."** He does not say, "The storm will disappear immediately." He does not say, "Tomorrow your problems will be over." Instead, he says something even more important: **"It is I."** In other words, "I am here with you." Sometimes that is the greatest miracle of all. Not that the storm disappears, but that God is present in the middle of it.

Pope Francis once said that God does not always save us from the storm; very often he saves us within the storm. What a beautiful truth.

Then Peter does something extraordinary. He steps out of the boat. As long as his eyes remain fixed on Jesus, he walks on the water. But the moment he begins to look at the wind and the waves, he starts to sink.

Isn't that often the story of our own lives? When we focus only on our problems, our fears become bigger. When we focus only on the news, on wars, uncertainty and everything that is wrong with the world, our hearts become anxious. But when our eyes remain fixed on Christ, we find the strength to keep going.

There is a lovely story about a little boy crossing a swaying suspension bridge with his father. The bridge moved so much in the wind that it frightened him. His father said, "Hold my hand." The little boy replied, "No, Dad. You hold mine." His father smiled and asked, "What's the difference?" The boy answered, "If I hold your hand and I become frightened, I might let go. But if you are holding my hand, I know you will never let go of me."

That is what faith is. It is not simply that we hold on to God. It is that God holds on to us. When Peter begins to sink, he does not say a long prayer. He simply cries, **"Lord, save me!"** And the Gospel tells us that immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Notice something beautiful. Jesus does not begin by correcting Peter. He first reaches out and saves him. Only afterwards does he gently help Peter understand why he lost heart. That is how God deals with us. He lifts us up before he teaches us. He loves us before he corrects us.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps today some of us are in the middle of a storm. But today's Gospel reminds us that there is no storm so great that Christ cannot reach us. Perhaps he will not change our situation straight away. But he will change our hearts.

As we continue this Holy Mass today, let us take home just one sentence from the Gospel. Whenever life becomes difficult... Whenever the waves seem too high... Whenever fear begins to take over... May we remember the words of Jesus: **"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."** Storms will come and storms will pass. But the hand of Christ is always stretched out towards those who have the courage to pray, **"Lord, save me."** And the person who walks through life holding the hand of Christ can face even the darkest night, trusting that God's dawn will always come.

Amen.

• Our Parish Feast Day – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This coming **Sunday, 16th August**, we have the great joy of celebrating the **Feast of Our Parish**, the Solemnity of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

The Parish Feast Day is one of the most important days in the life of a parish. It is the day when we come together, not simply as people who attend the same church, but as one family united in Christ. It is a day to thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon our parish, to pray for one another, and to entrust our future to the loving care of our heavenly Mother.

Under the title of **Our Lady of the Assumption**, the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Patroness of our church and our parish community. She reminds us that our true home is in heaven and gently teaches us to place our trust in God, to love one another, and to remain faithful even in the ordinary moments of life. As a loving Mother, she walks with us, prays for us, and continually leads us to her Son, Jesus.

We warmly invite every parishioner and every family to celebrate this beautiful feast together by participating in the **11:30 a.m. Mass**. Afterwards, please stay and join us for our parish celebration. Sharing food, conversation and time together is much more than a social gathering - it is an expression of our faith and our unity. The early Christian community was recognised not only by its prayer but also by the love its members had for one another. Our parish is strongest when we know one another, support one another, and rejoice together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you are able to help make the day a special one by preparing or bringing a dish to share, helping with the set-up before the celebration, or assisting with clearing up afterwards, your generosity would be deeply appreciated. Please add your name, telephone number and indicate how you would like to help on one of the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and continued love for our parish. May Our Lady of the Assumption watch over every family in our community, strengthen our faith, fill our hearts with peace, and keep us united in the love of her Son.

There is no better way to honour our Blessed Mother than by gathering together as one family around the altar of her Son, and then continuing that joy around the table as one parish community.

We very much hope that you and your family will be part of this special day.