

Mass times and intentions: 22nd – 30th August 2026

Saturday	22	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Da-Cunha Family – thanksgiving
Sunday	23	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	24	NO MASS
Tuesday	25	Feria of Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Stephanie's baby – thanksgiving
Wednesday	26	Feria of Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Daniela Fanatan – intentions
Thursday	27	St Monica 10.00 – Joshua Mekako – birthday
Friday	28	St Augustine 10.00 – Laura and Robert Hatt – intentions
Saturday	29	The Passion of St John the Baptist 10.00 – Rena D'Rozario – birthday
		TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Natty De Souza RIP
Sunday	30	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.

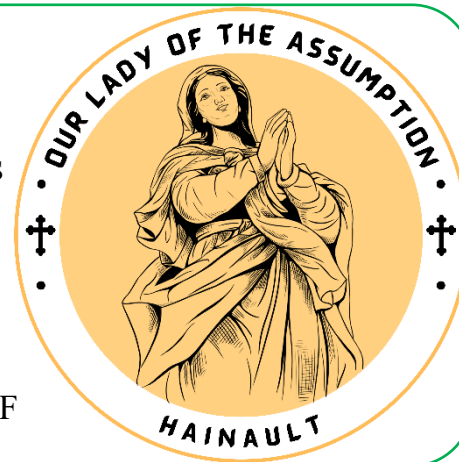
Mass Attendance last weekend: 306

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 760.37

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

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23rd August 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

80 - Bind us together, Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

730 - This is my body, broken for you

173 - Firmly I believe and truly

183 - Forth in the peace of Christ we go

688 - The Church's foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks a question which at first seems quite simple: *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* The disciples answer with what they have heard from others. But then Jesus goes further: *"But who do you say that I am?"*

And this is where today's Gospel really begins.

Because Jesus is not asking us what we have learnt about Him. He is not asking what other people say about Him. He is asking each one of us personally: *"Who am I for you?"*

And this question becomes even more serious when we look at the world in which we are living. For so long now, we have watched the suffering caused by the war in Ukraine. We see people losing their lives, parents grieving for their children, families separated from one another.

And this summer we have seen terrible fires, with people forced to leave their homes and families losing, sometimes within a few hours, what they had spent a lifetime building.

All of this reminds us of a truth that perhaps we would rather not think about: life is fragile. A home built over many years can disappear in a night. The peace we take for granted can suddenly be lost. Our plans can change in a moment. And it is precisely in the middle of this fragile world that Jesus asks us: *“But who do you say that I am?”*

Who am I when everything is going well? But, more importantly, who am I when you are afraid? When you do not understand? When you lose something precious? When the future becomes uncertain?

Peter answers: *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* This is not simply a beautiful answer. It is a choice. Peter is really saying: ***“Lord, I place my trust in You.”***

And perhaps this is exactly the message we need today. Faith does not mean that, because we believe in God, nothing bad will ever happen to us. Faith means knowing that whatever happens, we never have to face it alone. God does not promise us a life without storms. He promises to remain with us in the midst of the storm.

And then Jesus says something extraordinary: *“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Jesus does not say that evil will not exist. He says that evil will not win. And this is our hope. War does not have the final word. Fire does not have the final word. Fear does not have the final word. Suffering does not have the final word. Even death does not have the final word. God has the final word. And that is why a Christian can remain a person of hope, even in a world which sometimes gives us so many reasons to be afraid. Not because we close our eyes to suffering. But because, beyond all these things, Christ is alive, and He walks with us.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps today it is enough to leave this church with just one question in our hearts: **“Who is Jesus for me?”**

And let us try to answer that question not only here in church, but tomorrow, in the way we live: “Lord, You are my hope when I am afraid. You are my peace when everything around me is uncertain. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the One to whom I entrust my family, my worries and my future.”

And then we can continue our journey with greater peace, greater courage and even with joy. Because however uncertain the road ahead may sometimes seem, one thing remains certain: we do not walk alone. Christ walks with us.

Amen.

• With Grateful Hearts – Thank You for a Wonderful Parish Feast Day

Last Sunday was a truly beautiful and joyful day in the life of our parish as we celebrated together the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patroness of our church and our parish community.**

It was much more than a celebration. It was one of those special moments when we could truly feel that **we are one big and beautiful parish family, gathered around Christ and united under the loving protection of Our Blessed Mother.**

My heart is filled with gratitude as I look back on that wonderful day.

A sincere and heartfelt **thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us**, and to all those who worked so generously to make our Parish Feast Day so special. Thank you to those who helped with the preparations and organisation, to those who set everything up, prepared and brought such wonderful food, served, welcomed others, helped throughout the celebration, and stayed afterwards to clear everything away. Thank you also to all those who contributed quietly, in ways that perhaps many people did not see.

Every helping hand, every dish brought to share, every act of generosity, every smile and every moment spent together helped to make the day what it was.

I am also deeply grateful for the **kind wishes, cards and gifts** I personally received. Your thoughtfulness and affection touched me very much. Thank you from my heart.

But perhaps the greatest gift of the day was simply **seeing our parish together**: children and adults, families and friends, people talking, laughing, sharing food and enjoying one another's company. It was a beautiful reminder that a parish is not simply a church we come to on Sunday – **it is a family to which we belong.**

For all of this, we give thanks above all to **God**, who has blessed and accompanied our community, and to **Our Lady of the Assumption**, who continues to watch over our parish with a mother's love.

May the joy we shared last Sunday remain with us long after the celebration has ended. May it encourage us to know one another better, to care for one another more deeply, and to continue building together a parish where everyone can feel welcomed, valued and at home.

Thank you to each and every one of you.

May Our Lady of the Assumption continue to spread her mantle over our parish, our homes and our families, and keep us always united in the love of her Son.

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us!