

Mass times and intentions: 29th August – 06th September 2026

Saturday	29	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Natty De Souza RIP
Sunday	30	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	31	NO MASS
Tuesday	01	St Sebbi 10.00 – Sebastian Stephen – thanksgiving
Wednesday	02	Feria of Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Pusak Family - intentions
Thursday	03	St Gregory the Great 10.00 – Kathryn Godfrey and Singletary Bond RIP
Friday	04	Feria of Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Kathleen Doherty RIP
Saturday	05	St Teresa of Calcutta 10.00 – Olive Byrne and Family intentions
		TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	06	11.30 – Maureen Marston 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: 246

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 547.42

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/
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CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDEŞ
020 8500 3953; 07735 416319

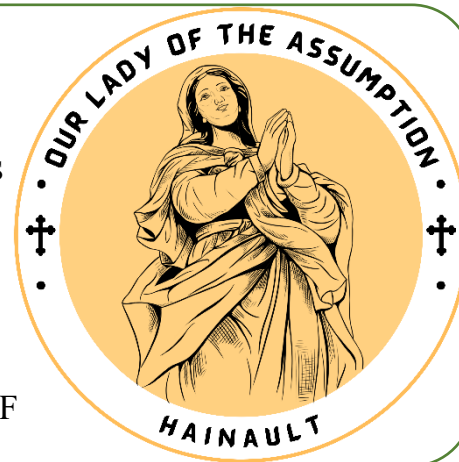
hainault@brcdt.org

finance-hainault@brcdt.org

safeguarding-hainault@brcdt.org

www.hainault.org.uk

98, Manford Way, Hainault, IG7 4DF



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 30th August 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

684 - Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord (v. 1, 2, 4)

Responsorial Psalm: *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.*

377 - Lord accept the gifts we offer at this Eucharistic feast

74 - Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

88 - Blest are the pure in heart

175 - Follow me, follow me

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel comes immediately after a remarkable moment. Last Sunday, we heard Peter say to Jesus, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Today, that same Peter struggles to accept what Jesus tells his disciples: that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be put to death, and then be raised to life.

Peter loves Jesus. And perhaps that is exactly why he cannot accept the idea of the Cross. He says, "*Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.*" In a way, we understand Peter. None of us wants the Cross. When we pray, we often ask God to take away what hurts us: "Lord, heal me. Lord, solve this problem. Lord, protect my family. Lord, take this suffering away." And there is nothing wrong with those prayers.

But today Jesus teaches us something deeper. There are moments when God does not take the cross away, but gives us the strength to carry it.

Jesus says: "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*" These words may sound difficult. But Jesus is not telling us to look for suffering. Christianity is not about loving suffering. The Cross means something deeper.

The Cross is love that remains when it would be easier to walk away. The Cross is the mother who stays awake beside her sick child. The Cross is the husband or wife who remains faithfully beside the person they love through illness. The Cross is caring patiently for an elderly parent. The Cross is forgiving when we have been hurt. The Cross is remaining kind when it would be easier to become indifferent. The Cross is continuing to believe even when we do not understand what God is doing.

Sometimes our cross is simply being patient. Listening. Forgiving. Giving someone another chance. Getting up in the morning and carrying on when we are tired. Praying even when we feel nothing. Trusting that God is near even when heaven seems silent.

But there is something very important in the words of Jesus. He does not simply say: "Take up your cross." He says: "*Take up your cross and follow me.*" And that changes everything.

Because we do not carry the Cross alone. Christ walks ahead of us. He knows pain. He knows betrayal. He knows loneliness. He knows tears. He knows the Cross. And, above all, he knows that beyond the Cross there is Resurrection.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps someone has come to Mass today carrying a very heavy cross. Perhaps you have prayed for a long time and nothing seems to change. Perhaps you are tired. Perhaps quietly in your heart you are asking, "Lord, how much longer can I carry this?"

Today Jesus does not say, "You must be stronger." He simply says: "Follow me." Take one more step. And then another. And let me walk with you. We may not be able to choose every cross that comes into our lives, but we can choose whether we carry it alone or with Christ.

So today, let us place into his hands everything that weighs upon our hearts. And let us remember: The Cross does not have the final word over our lives. The final word belongs to God. And God's final word is not suffering. It is Resurrection.

So even when the Cross is heavy, let us never lose hope. Christ walks ahead of us. Christ walks beside us. And Christ waits for us beyond the Cross.

Amen.

• **Season of Creation (1st September – 4th October 2026)**

The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1st September and finishing on the feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4th October. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

• **Visit of Statue of Our Lady of Fatima**

Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 12th September 2026

On Saturday, 12th September the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass (10:30am), this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan.

As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on "Fatima Message for the World."

• **First Holy Communion Programme 2026-2027**

The Application and Consent forms for the First Holy Communion (FHC) Programme for 2026/27 are now available at the back of the church.

You need to have the following criteria to be eligible for the programme:

- ✓ live within the parish of our Lady of Assumption, Hainault
- ✓ your child needs to be at least in Year 3 at school (7 years old and above)
- ✓ practising Catholic family (goes to church regularly for at least one year) in this parish; or a reference from your previous parish priest if new to our church community.

If you have any questions then please reach out to FHC catechists Anne D'Cruz, Marie Pinto and Gizelle Da-Cunha or email them on

fhc-hainault@brcdt.org

Please hand in your completed application and consent forms to Fr. Tarciziu no later than Sunday 20th September 2026.

The Programme will commence on Tuesday 22nd September 2026.