

Mass times and intentions: 12th – 20th September 2026

Saturday	12	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	13	11.30 – Joe O'Dwyer RIP
Monday	14	NO MASS
Tuesday	15	Our Lady of Sorrows 10.00 – Anna-Leah – good success and blessings
Wednesday	16	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian 10.00 – Eddy Cummins RIP
Thursday	17	St Robert Bellarmine 10.00 – Daniela Fanatan – intentions
Friday	18	Feria of Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
Saturday	19	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
		TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Angelina Selvan RIP
Sunday	20	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: 268

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 563.18

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 ERDES
020 8500 3953; 07735 416319

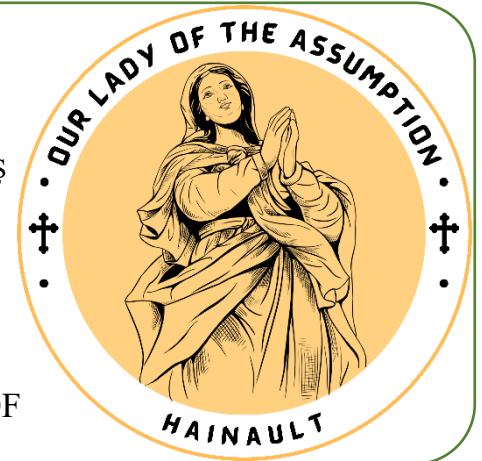
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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 13th September 2026

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

31 - All ye who seek a comfort sure (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

801 - When I survey the wondrous cross

757 - Vaster far than any ocean

77 - Because the Lord is my shepherd

573 - On a hill far away

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel begins with a very human question. Peter comes to Jesus and asks: "*Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?*" Peter probably thinks he is being very generous. But Jesus answers: "*I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.*" In other words: Peter, stop counting. Because when love begins to count, little by little, it stops being love. And perhaps this is where today's Gospel becomes difficult for us. It is easy to speak about forgiveness when the wound is small. But what happens when someone has hurt us deeply? When we have been betrayed? When someone has lied to us? When we offered trust and received disappointment? When the person who wounded us is someone we truly loved? Then forgiveness is no longer simply a beautiful word. It becomes a cross.

Jesus does not say that what happened to us does not matter. He does not ask us to pretend that something wrong was acceptable. Forgiveness does not mean allowing someone to continue hurting us.

Jesus asks something different: Do not allow the evil that someone has done to you to change your heart into something it was never meant to be. Sometimes we carry wounds for years. The person who hurt us may no longer even think about what happened. But we remember the words. We relive the moment. We carry the anger. And without realising it, someone who hurt us years ago is still controlling our peace today. Forgiveness says: "What you did hurt me, but I will not allow it to hurt the rest of my life." In this sense, forgiveness is also an act of freedom.

Jesus then tells the story of a servant whose master forgives him an enormous debt, a debt he could never possibly repay. But this same servant then meets someone who owes him much less and refuses to show the mercy he himself has just received. This is the tragedy of the parable. He received mercy, but he did not learn to become merciful. He was forgiven, but forgiveness never reached his heart.

And today, as we celebrate Education Sunday, perhaps there is something especially important here for us. Education is not only about learning to read and write, passing exams, achieving good results or preparing for a successful career. True education is also about forming the heart.

We want our children to learn mathematics, science, languages and history. We want them to discover their gifts and fulfil their potential. But surely, we also want them to become good people. People who know how to respect others. How to be kind. How to recognise when someone is lonely. How to say, "I'm sorry." And how to say, "I forgive you."

A child may one day forget a formula learnt at school. But they may never forget the teacher who believed in them when they did not believe in themselves. They may forget the details of a lesson, but they may remember for the rest of their lives the person who treated them with kindness. That is why today we thank God not only for our children and young people, but also for their teachers, teaching assistants, school staff, catechists, parents and all those who help to educate them. Because one of the greatest things we can teach a child is not simply how to make a living, but how to live.

And perhaps children learn forgiveness most powerfully not from what we tell them, but from what they see in us. If they see adults holding grudges, they learn to hold grudges. If they hear us constantly speaking badly about others, they learn to do the same. But if they see us saying, "I was wrong. Please forgive me," they learn humility. If they see us giving someone another chance, they learn mercy. If they see us praying for someone who has hurt us, they begin to understand the Gospel.

Dear brothers and sisters, perhaps during this Holy Mass, God is bringing someone to mind. A face. A name. A wound. We do not have to solve everything today. Sometimes forgiveness begins with a very simple prayer: "Lord, I cannot forgive yet. But I want to want to forgive. Please help me."

In a few moments, as we pray especially for our children and young people, let us ask God not only to bless their studies, their schools, their teachers and all that they will learn this year. Let us ask him to bless their hearts. May they grow not only in knowledge, but in wisdom. Not only in achievement, but in kindness. Not only in confidence, but in compassion. May they learn that intelligence is a wonderful gift, but a good heart is an even greater treasure. And may we, the adults around them, have the courage to teach them not only with our words, but with our lives.

Because one of the most precious things we can give to the next generation is the example of a life shaped by the love of Christ: a love that is patient, a love that knows how to forgive, a love that brings people together, and a love that never gives up on another person.

May our children learn from us that a truly educated heart is not only a heart filled with knowledge, but a heart filled with kindness, mercy and love.

Amen.

• Second Collection Next Weekend – Evangelii Gaudium Day

There will be a second collection next weekend for Evangelii Gaudium Day. The purpose of the day is to encourage Catholics to pray for evangelisation, reflect on their baptismal call to be missionary disciples, and support the domestic mission work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

• 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.