

Mass Intentions for week beginning 17th December 2016

Sat 17	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm	The People of the Parish Madeleine Selvini RIP Anne Lovett RIP (<i>anniv.</i>)
Sun 18		10.00am 12noon	
Mon 19	O Radix Jesse	10.00am 6.30pm	Christine Hall RIP <i>followed by</i> Novena Prayers Private Intention (<i>1962 Missal</i>)
Tue 20	O Clavis David	10.00am	Thanksgiving to St Martin
Wed 21	O ORIENS	10.00am	Bridget Sullivan RIP
Thur 22	O Rex Gentium	10.00am	Elizabeth Voisin RIP
Fri 23	O Emmanuel	10.00am	For Robert Reed (FM)
Sat 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00pm 9.30pm	Jago Family RIP The People of the Parish
Sun 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	8.30am 10.00am	Private Intention (JB) (<i>1962 Missal</i>) Ronald Taylor RIP & Anna Lisa Lacsa RIP

Confessions this Saturday 5.30 – 5.45pm

Your prayers are asked for the sick and housebound, especially:

Roland Selvini, Clare Merrins, Bandele Majiyagbe, Kathleen Newell, John Liddard, Jones Bediako-Antwi-Benneh, Leslie Cook, Trevor Barnham, Ann Dunseath, Christopher Johnstone, Josie D'alters, Christina Whiting, Anne Purcell, Ken Stanton, Kathleen Simpson, Pamela Allen, Grace Lobendhan, Marcus Prospert, Eoin Oliver, Bob Edgar, Peggy Gajewski, Victor Francis, Mary Evelyn Piotrowski, Derek Pyner, Gerald Rowe, Mary Brock, Ann Divine, Ann O'Donovan, Anthony Fonseca, Margaret McQueen, Paul Westrop, Maria McLoughlin, John Phillips, Mick Martin, Adriano Agatiello, Kay Fahy, Tony Baldwin, Paul Doyle, Susan Coker, Daniel Sutton, Tony Morton, Bernadette Thomas, Jane Anne Harvey, the Kitteridge Family, Maximilian Peluso, Patricia Theobalds, Jean Salter, Terry Eales, Norah Kelly, the residents of Sherrell House, Belmont Lodge and Pinewood.

Mass Attendance last weekend: 349

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Offertory Collection last weekend: £648.73

THE ASSUMPTION, Hainault, is twinned with the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows, Maria Ratschitz, in the diocese of Dundee, South Africa.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION HAINAULT

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17th-18th December 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE (*Saturday 24th December*)

6.00pm First "Vigil" Mass of Christmas

Sherry & Mince-Pies afterwards in the Parish hall

9.30pm Carol Service followed by

Mass during the Night ("Midnight")

CHRISTMAS DAY (*Sunday 25th December*)

8.30am Mass of the Dawn (*1962 Missal*)

10.00am Mass of the Day

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we are celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while preparations are well under way for the feast of Christmas. The Word of God in the liturgy helps us focus our attention on the meaning of this fundamental saving event, which is at once historic and supernatural.

Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel: God-with-us (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah's prophecy is of capital importance in the economy of

salvation. It assures us that "God himself" will give King David a descendent as a "sign" of his fidelity. This promise was fulfilled by Jesus born of the Virgin Mary.

Thus to benefit from the meaning and gift of grace of Christmas, now at hand, we must hasten to the school of Our Lady and her husband Joseph whom we contemplate in ecstatic adoration of the new-born Messiah in the manger.

In today's Gospel passage, Matthew highlights the role of *Joseph* whom he describes as a "just" man (Matthew 1:19), and thus emphasizes his unreserved devotion to fulfilling God's will. Precisely because of this inner righteousness, which in the ultimate analysis *coincides with love*, Joseph does not decide to reject Mary when he discovers she is with child. He resolves to "send her away quietly" (Matthew 1:19), but the angel of the Lord tells him not to fear, and to take her as his wife.

Another essential aspect of St Joseph's personality emerges here: he is *ready to listen to God in prayer*. He learns from the angel that "it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her, [Mary]" (cf. Matthew 1:20), according to the ancient prophecy: "*Behold, a young woman shall conceive...*", and he is quick to accept God's plans that surpass human limitations.

In sum, Joseph can be described as an authentic man of faith like his wife Mary. *Faith combines justice and prayer*; this is the most appropriate attitude with which to encounter the Emmanuel, God-with-us. Indeed, believing means *living through history open to God's initiative*, to the creative force of his Word who became flesh in Christ, uniting himself to our humanity forever. Thus, the Virgin Mary and St Joseph help us to celebrate fruitfully the birth of the Redeemer.

St John Paul II (Angelus, 2001)

THIS SUNDAY at 3.30pm
NATIVITY PLAY & CAROLS
Presented by the First Communion Children



Mince-Pies and Mulled Wine afterwards in the Parish Hall



TEA & COFFEE

are served in the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass every Sunday. Please come along, even if only for a few minutes, to meet and chat with your fellow parishioners.

FR DANIEL KULANGARA

After seven years in this country Fr Daniel has been recalled back to Kerala by his superiors. To show our appreciation for his 3½ years' ministry in our parish there will be a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend. I count on your generosity. *Fr Selvini*

THIS MONDAY:

10.00am Mass followed by Novena Prayers
6.30pm Mass (1962 Missal)

THE LEGION OF MARY meets this Thursday at 7.00pm

THIS SATURDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE): no Rosary / no morning Mass

HAINAULT CATHOLIC CLUB LTD: Membership now due: £6. Concessions £2.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: Sunday 28th May – Saturday 3rd June 2017 led by Fr Francis Coveney: £829 per person– based on a group of 40 pilgrims. 4 nights half board + 2 nights full board. Full services of a Tangney Tours courier Further details including booking form can be obtained from the back of the Church or from Tangney Tours. Please send completed booking forms to Gill Didino, Tangney Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8AF. Telephone 01732 886 666.

NEW YEAR RETREAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (16-35 years), in Central London and organised by Youth2000. Poster and details in the porch.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2017: The next session is *TODAY* at St John Vianney, Clayhall, starting at 3.00pm promptly.

SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL

If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is most important that a priest be informed so that the sick person may receive the spiritual help of the sacraments. Relatives or friends should inform their parish priest their parish priest and/or the Catholic chaplain of the hospital (*at King George Hospital, 8590 9026; at Queen's Hospital, 01708 477890 (Helen Miranda); at Whipps Cross Hospital, 8520 5877.*

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

I draw your attention to the *Sick Parishioner Care* forms at the back of church. Please take one if you are going to hospital and wish the Catholic chaplain to look after you!

Fr Selvini