

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION HAINAULT

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Registered Charity No. 234092



2nd-3rd December 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Season of Advent

Today, with the *First Sunday of Advent* we begin a new liturgical year. The God of the covenant revealed himself in history and in history the Church celebrates the mystery of salvation: the Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way, the journey of believers is continually renewed, extending between what Christ has "already" realized and the "not yet" of his full revelation.

God is the future of the human person and of the world. If humanity loses the meaning of God, it will close itself to the future and inevitably lose the perspective of its pilgrim journey in time. Why birth, why death? Why sacrifice, why suffering?

To these questions, Christianity offers a satisfying answer. For this reason, *Christ is the hope of humanity.* He is the true meaning of our present, because he is our sure future.

Advent reminds us that he has come, and that he will come. The life of believers is a continuous and vigilant waiting for his coming. Today, the invitation to watch and to wait is underlined with insistence by St Mark, who, throughout the new liturgical year, will guide us in the discovery of the mystery of Christ.

In today's passage taken from the second of the great discourses of Jesus, the evangelist points out the final meaning of history and of creation and exhorts us to make of our lives an unceasing quest for Christ. From our being with him and from the contemplation of his countenance come the missionary vigour that will help us to leave our grey daily routine in order to be his courageous witnesses.

On this journey of conversion and of apostolic dedication, Mary, the bright dawn and the sure guide of our steps, accompanies us. She does it in a special way by inviting us to contemplate the joyful mysteries of the Rosary.

We look to her with confidence while she prepares us to celebrate the solemn feast of her Immaculate Conception.

Pope St John Paul II (Angelus 2002)

THE ANGELUS

As is now our custom, the Angelus is said at the beginning of the 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and the 12noon Mass on Sundays. The text of the prayer can be found in the Parish Mass Books on page 2 (opposite the Table of Contents).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: *there will be a retiring collection for the Christmas Flowers this weekend (2nd-3rd December).*



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.

THIS MONDAY:

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

THE MONTLIGEON PRAYER GROUP

for the Holy Souls in Purgatory meets this Wednesday for Mass at 10.00am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayers for the Holy Souls and Benediction. The meeting will end no later than 11 o'clock.

THE LEGION OF MARY *meets this Thursday at 7.00pm*

**This Friday:
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of Our Lady**

**10.00am Mass
6.30pm Mass (1962 Missal)**

*O Mary conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to Thee!*



The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the month of December

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

CHURCH REPOSITORY: *lots of Christmas cards, calendars and other “goodies” – good quality at a reasonable price. Don’t leave it to the last minute to do your shopping!*

WALK WITH ME IN ADVENT: available at the back of church – price: £1.00 – money in the papers box, please.

DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?* Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for “Catholic Education” in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. *Bishop Alan Williams sm*

CRISIS 2017 - Next weekend *9th/10th December* the Justice and Peace Group will be collecting after Masses for the annual Crisis appeal. Crisis provides shelter for homeless people over the Christmas holiday, with hot meals, a bed for the night, a chance to shower, freshen up and get clothes, as well as health checks and advice on housing and employment. Crisis also runs year-round services for training and support in the coming year. Each £26.08 raised reserves a place at Crisis at Christmas for someone who is homeless.

ADVANCE NOTICE: A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes at Leigh on Sea at 12noon on the feast of St Thomas Becket, *Friday 29th December*. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and meet our seminarians.

HAINAULT CATHOLIC CLUB LTD:
Membership renewal now due: £8. Concessions £2.

ADVANCE NOTICE:
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Presented by the First Communion Children
Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm
Mince-Pies and Mulled Wine afterwards in the Parish Hall

Mass Intentions for week beginning 2nd December 2017

Sat 2	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm	Michael Kirby RIP (<i>anniv.</i>)
Sun 3		10.00am	Intentions of Shirley Ruiz
		12noon	The People of the Parish
Mon 4	St John Damascene, Pr. & Dr	10.00am	Mass <i>followed by</i> Novena Prayers
		6.30pm	Annette Griffiths RIP (<i>1962 Missal</i>)
Tue 5	Advent Feria	10.00am	Rita Smith RIP
Wed 6	St Nicholas, Bp	10.00am	December Anniversaries RIP
Thur 7	St Ambrose, Bp & Dr	10.00am	Vic Harris RIP
Fri 8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	10.00am	John Quinn TIP
		6.30pm	Private Intention (<i>1962 Missal</i>)
Sat 9	St Juan Diego	9.30am	Hilary Abah RIP
Sat 9	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm	The People of the Parish
Sun 10		10.00am	Sarah McMahan RIP
		12noon	Mass

Confessions this Saturday 5.30 – 5.45pm

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

Roland Selvini, Clare Merrins, Maciej Pogorzelski, Margaret McQueen, Paul Westrop, Bernadette Prudence, Kathleen Newell, John Liddard, Jones Bediako-Antwi-Benneh, Leslie Cook, Trevor Barnham, Ann Dunseath, Christopher Johnstone, Josie D'after, Christina Whiting, Anne Purcell, Ken Stanton, Kathleen Simpson, Pamela Allen, Grace Lobendhan, Marcus Prospert, Eoin Oliver, Peggy Gajewski, Victor Francis, Mary Evelyn Piotrowski, Derek Pyner, Gerald Rowe, Mary Brock, Ann Divine, Ann O'Donovan, Anthony Fonseca, 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: 335

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Offertory Collection last weekend: £626.55

BUON NATALE from Casa Pipino Ristorante on *Sunday 10th December from 3.00pm* – unveiling and blessing of the Nativity Display followed by raffles and refreshments – proceeds to our parish. All welcome! Casa Pipino is at 783, Chigwell Road, Chigwell IG8 8AU.