

St Ignatius Catholic Church

Parish of Sunbury-on-Thames,
Archdiocese of Westminster

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32nd SUNDAY IN OT

Newsletter

8th NOVEMBER 2020

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES:

The Gospel for this Sunday, which, tragically, I alone will hear in the context of a Mass is the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. As the Church's year draws to a close the Sunday readings become more and more preoccupied with the Second Coming of Christ and the parables Our Lord told about it. Meditating upon this has always been central to true Christian devotion as it that event, far from being a disaster is understood by we who believe as the glorious crowning of all creation. When "heaven and earth will pass away" (Lk 21:33) and God "will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

This event can often seem distant to us. Christ has not come for these past two thousand years, after all. But this is perhaps to forget that our own miniature "Second Coming" is something we are all sure to experience. Like Our Lord we are all "born to die." This is why Our Lord speaks of it so very often. He wants us to remain alert, awake, aware that leading a good and pious life is the surest path to heaven.

We should not, however, allow this to unduly frighten us. This month we remember the Holy Souls who are preparing for heaven in purgatory. The Holy Souls have the inexpressible joy of knowing that they are assured the life of heaven, even though they were imperfect when they died. We see in them hope in our own imperfection. While we remain imperfect in so many ways we still know that by turning to God in repentance for our sins and, above all, in *love* we are all able to join them.

Today we live in the "valley of the shadow of death" perhaps more than in recent times because of this terrible virus. But we must remember, we are not the children of death but the children of the Resurrection. Christ has conquered sin and death. While we are divided, we are always one in Him, while we feel defeated we are always victorious in Him, and while we are frightened we are strong in Him. "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God" (Romans :38-39).

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR

While it is not an ideal time, I would like to introduce our new Parish Administrator, Lavina Fernandes. Lavina has been appointed to oversee a number of aspects of parish administration and help Fr Christian in organisational matters. I am sure many of you will “meet” her on the telephone or via email during the lockdown as she will continue working. I am sure you will make her feel as welcome as you have made me.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES (FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Weekends: 9am to 6pm

On Afternoon Monday the 9th November the Church will remain closed due to cleaning.

Church will remain closed on Thursday

MASS TIMES (**CANCELLED DUE TO LOCKDOWN**)

Fr Christian will say a Mass in private every day.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:30am

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm & Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday 10:30am – 11:15am followed by Benediction.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 10:30am -11:15am (in the Sacristy) or by appointment.

Parish Priest: Fr Christian de Lisle (*Day off on Thursday*) christiandelisle@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Mrs Lavina Menezes E Fernandes sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm

Parish Centre Enquires: Pat Edgar on 07725 023811

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Ann Roberts, sunburyonthames@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

November Dead List:

We will be happily accepting additions to our November Book of the Dead throughout November. Please take an envelope from the back of church (though any envelope will do), write your list of deceased friends, relatives and benefactors along with your donation and return it either to Fr Christian or put it through the Rectory's letterbox.

Last Rites during Lockdown (*a personal note from Fr Christian*): It is my absolute duty as a priest, and particularly as the pastor of Sunbury, to give the comfort of the sacraments to the dying. I will never refuse to come to the bedside of anyone who is dying to anoint them and give them their last confession. I have already done this many times during this crisis when I was a chaplain at the Homerton Hospital. I am 32 years old and have no underlying health conditions so please do not worry about my health at all. Naturally I will be taking every precaution and carefully

following the bishops' instructions on safely administering the sacraments in these times. Again, be assured, if I am called to a dying parishioner I will always come.

Signing of Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) for Reception School

If you wish to apply for Catholic Schools, please email Lavina for an appointment at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk. The closing date is 15 January 2021.

REGULAR NOTICES

Parish Registration: If you are new to the parish and would like to register. Please contact Lavina at Parish office for a registration form.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to offer a Mass, please drop your intention envelope through the Rectory letterbox or email Lavina.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Baptism – Baptisms are suspended during lockdown. They will resume as soon as lockdown ends or public worship is permitted again. If you have a baptism booked for December Fr Christian intends to go ahead, if the government allows us to.

Please remember: anyone can baptise in an emergency. If a baptised child becomes very ill or has an accident it is the duty of his or her parents or any other person to baptise the child. If this happens, please inform Fr Christian so the child's name can be added to the parish register.

First Holy Communion 2021 – First Confession and Holy Communion 2021 classes will not be starting till January because of COVID. Fr Christian will be in contact with all the parents who have signed their children up. There will definitely be a course this academic year, however. Thank you for your patience.

Confirmation 2020: Sadly the Confirmations for 2020 will not be possible this month because of the lockdown. With Sr Liza and the confirmandi's parents we will organise Confirmations as soon as we can after the lockdown ends.

Confirmation 2021: Classes for Confirmation in 2021 will not start until well into the New Year. Please keep an eye out for updates in the newsletter.

Becoming Catholic 2020-21: Welcome home! Please contact Fr Christian by telephone or email to organise a meeting.

Marriage: Please contact Fr Christian by telephone or email to organise a meeting.