

St Ignatius Catholic Church

Parish of Sunbury-on-Thames,
Archdiocese of Westminster

The Rectory, Green St,
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+ 33rd SUNDAY IN OT

Newsletter

15th NOVEMBER 2020

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES:

This Sunday sees the parable of the talents. Like many of the gospel readings towards the end of the Church's year, it indicates how exacting God can be. Again, however, we should not forget that God's justice is always tempered by His loving mercy. At different times we need to meditate upon these different aspects of the Divine Nature. When we are being self-deceiving, or using His mercy to excuse our own sin then we do well to remember that He is just. Not only that, when we see grave injustice and the horrors which man can visit upon man it is sometimes comforting to remember that God is not mocked, that God is Mercy and Justice. It is a false comfort to a great criminal to think that when he dies then all is over for him. For such a man death seems an escape from justice. Instead like all of us, the true hope is only found in the immeasurable, loving mercy of the God who died for us upon the Cross.

What of the talents themselves though? How does this particular image relate to us now in November 2020? Perhaps it is in a way which seems very far from "talents" in the normal sense of the word. We are not presented with any great joys in our present situation. Being trapped at home is not a talent. That said, this lockdown is a potential gift in so far as it can be used to draw closer to Our Lord. Challenging times require heroic responses and we are presented with such a challenge. We are divided from one another once more and, once more, we are deprived of the communal prayer and instruction which sustain our families in the faith. But we can, and should, rise to this challenge, not with despair but by refocusing our lives at home on Our Lord. Keep the Sabbath day holy: even if we cannot meet in church we can pray as families at home and we can listen to the scriptures. Our children may not have the instruction they normally have in church. Can we give them at least some instruction in the faith? In these ways we are taking out "talent", the hand that we have been dealt, and we are putting it to good use and making it part of our path to sainthood.

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

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.

Planned giving – STANDING ORDERS: If you wish to set up your offertory through standing orders, please complete the form available at the back of the Church and put it through the Rectory's letterbox. You do not need to be a tax payer in order to have a Standing Order. Please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme. You could also email Lavina at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk for more details._

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, the brown envelopes are available in the Church Porch. Please drop your Mass intention envelopes 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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

1st Oct to 31 Oct 2020

*Thank you for your generous
donations*

Envelopes	£ 1,134.50
Loose	£ 592.76
Standing Orders	£ 2,658.00
Total:	<u>£ 4,385.26</u>

THIS SUNDAY READINGS:

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; 1
Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

PLEASE PRAY for all the sick and housebound in the parish.

And for the recently departed,

Mrs Josephine May Childs, Mrs Tanya Louise North RIP,

Mr Patrick Thomas Oliver Jordan,