



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE RECTORY, GREEN STREET, SUNBURY-ON-THAMES, MIDDLESEX TW16 6QB

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RECTOR: FR CHRISTIAN DE LISLE

ADMINISTRATOR: LAVINA MENEZES E FERNANDES

NEWSLETTER

29TH NOVEMBER 2020, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Times

All Masses will resume at their normal times from
Friday 4th December

WEEKDAY MASSES: Friday: 9:30am.

Church will remain closed on Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES (FOR NEXT WEEK): Saturday Vigil
Mass 6pm & Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

Church Opening Times (*For Individual Prayer*):
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Weekends:
9am to 6pm

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.

This Sunday Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm: 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

PARISH NOTICES

ROTA: We are planning to get back to the usual Parish Rotas for *Ministers of Word, Ministers of Eucharist, Stewards & Church Cleaning Team.*

The Stewards rota has been displayed in the Church Porch and will be also available on the Parish website next week. If there are any changes, please contact the Parish office.

Ministers, please contact the Parish office to inform us about any recent updates or changes in your Mass preferences.

Church Cleaning Teams (1-6), please contact the Parish office to confirm about the day & time for cleaning.

A special rota for the *Christmas Masses* will be produced closer to the time.

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@rcadow.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@rcadow.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 an unbaptised 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 - OCT 2020

Thank you for your generous donations

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

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, Mrs Clare Link.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES:

Today is the first day of the Advent season, our time of expectant spiritual preparation for the great feast of our Lord's Incarnation at Christmas.

During this time we will reflect in a particular way upon the prophecies of Isaiah. The Book of the Prophet Isaiah has for so many centuries been known as the fifth gospel.

St Jerome, the great early monk and scholar of the profoundest mysteries of scripture described the great prophet as "the first gospel writer" because when one reads the words of Isaiah it seems "that it is being spoken not only by a prophet, but by a gospel writer. For thus all the mysteries of Christ and the Church are pursued to clarity, so that you would not think them to be prophesied of the future, but that they covered the history of things past."

That our blessed Lord Himself consciously acted out, during his early ministry, the signs foretold by Isaiah is made abundantly clear by the beginning of his public ministry. In his Gospel St Luke describes our Lord's first public act as reading from the prophecies of Isaiah before bluntly saying "today this scripture is being fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

But why did God only reveal Himself in prophecies? One thing we are all aware of is our own human weakness. That we have many imperfections, and while God has given us true intelligence and a capacity to understand the profoundest mysteries of the universe, we also know that the mysteries of God Himself and of the dark, obscure reality of evil in our world are things we cannot understand without the help of God. This all being so, God needed to prepare the ground, as it were, for his coming. He needed to form a people who His son could live among and who were prepared to understand, even if only faintly, the actions he was to undertake.

Thus, the story of salvation is slowly unfolded over the course of the Old Testament. Each action of God, each episode in the formation of the ancient people of Israel and each prophecy they were given would reveal a little more, drawing them on towards that moment when the final, total revelation would happen in Christ. That total revelation is in Christ because Christ is the Word of God. He is, in Himself, the totality of what God is for us.