ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Rectory, Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 6QB
Telephone: 01932 783 507 Email: sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk
Rector: Fr Christian de Lisle
Administrator: Lavina Menezes E Fernandes

N E W S L E T T E R

26th September 2021, ✠ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in OT

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm & Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30am

PUBLIC ROSARY: Every Wednesday 10am.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8am-5pm. Saturday 9:30am-6:30pm. Sunday 8am-1pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Saturday 10:30am – 11:15am followed by Benediction

CONFESSION: Saturday 10:30am -11:15am (in the Sacristy) or by appointment

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THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS *Year B Ps Week 2*

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18(19):8,10,12-14
Response: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Second Reading: James 5:1-6
Gospel: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

Since, Monday 19th formal social distancing measures have been relaxed in the Church. The toilets are also open again. The offertory collections have been restored. There is no limit on the numbers at weddings, baptism and funerals. Congregational singing is permitted but will be slowly and cautiously reintroduced. The Church will continue to be regularly sanitised. Communion from the chalice and the sign of peace remain suspended. Coffee on Sunday Morning will resume in September.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations

18/19 September 2021

Envelopes	£ 320.00
Loose	£ 259.00
Total	**£ 579.00**

Standing Orders for July 2021 **£ 3,320.00**
Standing Orders for August 2021 **£ 2970.00**

Church Cleaning TEAM 5: S & C Rodrigues (Saturday)

For all queries regarding Parish accounts, Gift Aid, Weekly envelopes, Standing orders and so on, please *email at* ***sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk*** & for Parish Centre(s) bookings, please email at ***sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk*** or contact Lavina, Parish Administrator at the Parish office.

PARISH NOTICES

Gardening Sessions on Saturday 2nd October. The parish would like to invite any volunteers who might want to help with tiding the outside spaces of the parish, removing weeds, clipping hedges and so on. The team will between 9am to 2pm. They will meet in the church car park. Lunch will be provided! Please bring hoes, trowels, spades, rakes, brooms, forks, secateurs, hedge clippers and any other useful gardening tool to work with. Some other equipment will also be provided. Please contact Helen Lasek on 0787941 5578.

Secondary School Transfers: Parents have been able to book meetings with Fr Christian on the Parish website - **Events** from Monday 13th September. The closing date for on-time applications to secondary schools is 31 October 2021. For more information visit: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-andlearning/schools/ admissions/ secondary

First Holy Communion 2022: Applications have been received via the *Parish Website/Parish Life/Sacramental Preparation/First Holy Communion* from Monday 20th September. The course is aimed at children in Years 3 or 4. Sessions will start at the beginning of November, after half term. There will be a parents' meeting in October.

Altar Servers: Applications to begin serving at Mass will open on Tuesday 28th September before 3pm. Applicants should have received their First Holy Communion. Prior experience is welcomed but not required.

First Confession for 2020 – A short course to prepare children in Years 5 & 6 for their First Confessions will take place after half term. From now on children should have their First Confession as part of their First Holy Communion course. This course is for children who have had their First Communion under the old system and still need to have their First Confession. Parents will be able to sign up via the website in mid-October.

REGULAR NOTICES

Parish Registration: If you are new to the parish and would like to register, the Parish Registration (White) forms are available in the Church porch or please email the Parish Office.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: COVID has created some financial difficulties for all, our parish included. Please continue your support. Thank you for your generosity.

1. If you would like **"Weekly Donation Envelopes"** or would like to setup **Standing Orders**, please complete the *Parish Gift Aid & Standing Order (Blue) Form* available in the Church Porch OR please contact the Parish office, call: 01932783507 or Email: sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk OR please visit our Parish Website – *Donate to our Parish*, link provided below.

2. If you are a **TAX PAYER**, please consider joining the "**Gift Aid Scheme"** by completing the same form.

3. You **DO NOT** need to be a *Tax Payer* in order to set up or request for *Standing Order or Weekly Donation Envelopes.*

4. A new and alternative way of donating to our parish ONLINE: https://bit.ly/SunburyVMG

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 the Parish Office.

Funerals: To book a funeral, please contact the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick: If you know of someone in the parish who is very ill please contact Fr Christian to arrange a visit.

Westminster Year Book 2021: Copies are available at the Parish office, priced at £4.50.

Minister's Rotas: are displayed in the Church Porch and are available on the Parish website. The next rota for the *Ministers of the Eucharist* has been updated.

PARISH SCHOOLS

Parish Schools: St Ignatius Catholic Primary School and St Paul's Catholic College (Secondary) are this parish's two Catholic Schools, though some parishioners have children at Catholic secondary schools outside the parish bounds. Both are thriving schools. All Catholics are encouraged to have their children educated in a Catholic context.

Signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice for Catholic Schools

- Parents are requested to contact the School Office first to learn about the School admissions & visit https://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions.
- **For Secondary Transfer Year 7 (Sept -Oct), Reception (Nov - Jan) & Nursery (Feb- Apr),** please keep reading the Newsletter near the time for Online appointment(s) with the Priest via Parish website.
- **For School Years (Yr1 to Yr6) & other school years,** please email the Parish Office for an appointment at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Baptism: To arrange for the baptism of any child under the age of seven please contact the Parish Office to book a meeting.
All parents will need to complete a short course on the Sacrament of Baptism, usually held at noon on Saturdays. A child's baptism can be booked for any Saturday which works, again at noon.

Confirmation 2021-22: Teenagers in Years 8, 9 & 10 are invited to join the Confirmation course by signing up on the Parish Website from 8th November. Meetings will start after Christmas.

Becoming Catholic 2021-22: 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.

EVENTS

National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Life: On Monday 28th September, the Vigil of St Michael, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 2nd October, 2.30pm. guildofststephen.org for updates.

A Day with Mary at Our Lady & St Peter, Victoria Drive, SW19 on Saturday 9th October from 9.30am to 3:30pm. Please see the poster in the Church porch.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES:

The words of St James in today's second reading form part of a well-known theme throughout the New Testament: the dangers of attachment to earthly goods. Our Lord famously said in another place that "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

What are we to make of these statements? Are we to see all earthly goods as bad in themselves? Not exactly. There is nothing wrong with money in itself, or even with having a lot of money. Abraham was, after all, a rich man, as were several other ancient patriarchs. But what is certainly the case is that jealously guarding our money or becoming obsessed with acquiring more money, is very often a serious sin.

The three primary sins here are selfishness, greed and idolatry. Selfishness and greed are fairly obvious: The selfish and greedy person hoards wealth while others suffer grave want or becomes obsessed with gaining more and more unnecessary riches. Idolatry seems less obvious but is the worst of all. Whole societies have very often been consumed by such idolatry. We need only think of materialist political ideologies, and the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade. Placing money and material gain at the centre of our lives, as the summit of our ambition, is to unthrone the one who alone should occupy that place: Almighty God Himself. God is Goodness itself, Truth itself, Love itself. Of course, He alone should be the summit, yet He so often is not. Where God has been unthroned the dignity of human beings, who He has made in His own image and likeness is usually under grave threat.

Poverty, on the other hand, has no merits in itself. That said, it is an easily observable fact that those with less earthly goods to cling to less often suffer from the temptations which the rich have to pride, selfishness and greed. If one has little, one has little to cling to!

Are we to all give away what money we have then? Is there no other way to be saved? Some certainly should. Some are called to live out the gospel as perfectly as Christ Himself. They are the ones God has chosen to become his monks and nuns. Their embrace of poverty for the sake of the gospel is a witness to us all. For most of us, however, that is not an option. Many people have families who must be provided for, businesses to run and so on. What we can do, however, is to resist within ourselves the sins which our Lord and St James condemn so severely. How do we do this? Through generosity and keeping ourselves fixed on God. If we find ourselves becoming greedy, the best way to fight that is by training ourselves to be generous.

Above all we must not forget that Christ has come to bring us grace. He will give us all the grace we need to be holy and to draw close to God. The apostles asked our Lord how anyone could be saved after He said it was hard for the rich and He answered with these comforting words "with man it is impossible, but with God nothing is impossible." We are reliant on Him, and if we know anything, it is that we can always trust Him.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Theresa Belmira Silveira, Anna Wilson, Geoff Clarke, Robert Burgess, James Tranter, Lorna Collins.

+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+