



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

13TH FEBRUARY 2022 ✱ 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. Benediction at 11:15am.

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

Church Cleaning TEAM 4: M Pinto, N Pinto & E Dudouet (Saturday 1-5pm)

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

First Holy Communion 2022: The dates for the First Holy Communion will be allocated after half term. Please note that some parents still need to pay the £15 for the course book.

Fr Christian is away From Monday till Thursday this week. Fr Michael will say the 9:30am weekday Mass.

A Thank You. Fr Christian would like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved in making our parish's hosting of the Deanery meeting and lunch last week.

Weekly Donation Envelopes: As we are due to place an order for the next Weekly Donation Envelopes starting from 10th April 2022 to April 2023.

If you wish to join the Standing Order or have already setup the Standing Order and wish to cancel your Weekly Donation Envelopes. Kindly email the Parish Office at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk or call 01932783507 with your existing Box number, Full Name, Address & Contact number as soon as possible.

If you wish to support your parish by **Weekly Donation Envelopes** or **Standing Order**, please see details below* or contact the Parish Office.

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.

Funerals: To book a funeral, please contact 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 Order**, 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/Donate to our Parish**.

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*.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to offer a Mass, the blue envelopes are available in the Church Porch. Please drop your Mass intention envelopes through the Rectory - Letterbox or email 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.

Altar Servers: Online applications to begin serving at Mass are now open for applicants under 18 and over 18. Applicants should have received their First Holy Communion. Prior experience is welcomed but not required. Please visit [Parish Website/Parish Life/Parish Groups/First Holy Communion](#)

Stewards & Minister's Rotas: The new rotas are displayed in the Church Porch and are available online on the Parish website - *Parish Groups*.

Westminster Year Book 2022: Copies are available at the Parish office, priced at £5.00

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.

First Holy Communion 2022: Please see the Session dates on the Parish Website.

First Holy Communion 2022: Mass Attendance cards

1. The child should be present with his/her Attendance card.
2. Please make sure the Attendance Card has the Child's full name, this will help the Stewards to identify the card and in case the Attendance card is lost.
3. Please DO NOT forget to bring your Childs Attendance card to Mass every weekend.
4. Stamps/Stickers will not be issued for a missed Sunday.
5. Please contact the Parish Office if you need a new Attendance Card.

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.

Confirmation: The confirmation course for 2022 has begun and cannot accept new applicants. Please join next year's course.

EVENTS

A Day with Mary – Holy Apostles Winchester Street SW1V
Saturday 19th February from 10am to 4.15pm. Kindly see the poster on the Church Notice Board for more information.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES:

Those Today we hear Our Lord teach us what are traditionally called the Beatitudes. They are absolutely central.

This is because the teaching contained in the Beatitudes. Contains, in many ways, a summation of the Christian life – the life which Almighty God has made us for and which will unfailingly bring us to union with God in heaven. In the translation we have here the word "happy" is used repeatedly. I can see why the translator decided to do that, because the original word does mean happy. But it also means much more than that. It is not mere happiness, as in feeling upbeat and so on. For one thing, it seems absurd to suggest that the persecuted, or mourners are "happy" in the normal sense.

I think that the more old fashioned translation of "blessed" is closer to what Our Lord really means here. Blessed, in this sense, means one who is blessed by God and has "beatitude". Beatitude is something much more profound than normal happiness. I means a true inner peace, a true feeling of contentment and joy arising from a good life, filled with a love for God and our neighbour. The ancient world was very preoccupied with beatitude. They all wanted it. Some sought it in becoming great philosophers, or great merchants, or great warriors and conquerors.

Our Lord sees all that and says "no." Rather, true happiness, beatitude, is found in living according to the wisdom which Christ brought us. Firstly we are told: blessed are the poor in spirit. This seems peculiar to us today, and it would have then. We are so often told about the importance of pride. Pride! In one sense pride can be a good thing – we should certainly love ourselves as beloved children of God, he loves us and we should love ourselves. But pride can also be the greatest and deadliest of all the sins. It was pride which caused the fall of humanity. God wants us to be participators in the divine nature, he wants to make us gods, but we cannot do this ourselves. If we refuse to

recognise our limitations and see that we are imperfect, then he cannot make us that way. Indeed, our weaknesses will only get worse as we falsely start to see them as strengths. The poor in spirit are those who are humble before God, recognise their need for his grace and so let themselves be transformed by it.

Blessed are the meek. Once we have learned humility then we must learn how to govern our hearts and actions and so become meek. Our reason must be above our base passions. Passions are not bad in themselves, there is a time and a place to be angry, for example, but that emotion must not take over. If we allow it to take over then we become nothing more than an enraged beast, and can do terrible things.

Blessed are they who mourn. Again this follows naturally. The humble and meek are open to start seeing the horror of sin for what it is. How God sees sin, how sin disfigures creation and our own nature. We can see our own sins and weep over how ungrateful we have been to God, and see the sins of the world with fresh eyes. Our Lord prayed through tears so often because, as true God and true Man, he could see and feel in himself the horror of sin.

To see sin for what it is to repent of our sins, and to see the tragedies in our world draws us on to the next beatitude: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Having seen what sin truly is we are naturally drawn to want to both improve our own lives and to act for truth and justice in the world.

Blessed are the merciful. God is Love, and true love demands justice. But, the great Doctors of the Church have said, "justice without mercy is cruelty." Indeed, if we look at ourselves can we say anything other than the words of King David "if you O Lord should mark our guilt, O Lord who would survive?" We can only be saved by the mercy of God and so we should also show mercy to the repentant evil doer. Hence the merciful "shall obtain mercy."

But all of this will be for nothing, if it is not done with a pure intention. Blessed are the pure in heart: we should act from love, love of God and love of neighbour. Not for praise and fame in this world. Heaven is our reward, not earthly fame which will pass away.

Having achieved all this we can truly become peace-makers. Blessed are the peace-makers. This not only means making peace between enemies and ending wars in the world. It also means those who have found the true, profound inner peace which alone comes from a life well lived.

Which takes us to the final beatitude: Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness's sake. In this, those who are persecuted are joining with Christ and taking up their own cross. Christ was nailed to the cross because of his perfect obedience to the Father. Because wickedness cannot abide the presence of perfect goodness. And so, should we be surprised if misunderstanding, hatred and persecution comes our way if we are leading truly Christian lives?

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Simon P Murphy, Baby Romeo DeMello, Bernadette Moran,
Fr Dominic Byrne, Pat Suckling, Zofia Moore.

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