



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

TELEPHONE: 01932 783 507 EMAIL: SUNBURYONTHAMES@RCDOW.ORG.UK

WEB: PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/SUNBURYONTHAMES/

RECTOR: FR CHRISTIAN DE LISLE

ADMINISTRATOR: LAVINA MENEZES E FERNANDES

NEWSLETTER

29TH JANUARY 2023 ✱ 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:30am. *Friday abstinence.*

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

PUBLIC ROSARY: Every Wednesday 10am. All are welcome.

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

MASS BOOK THIS SUNDAY

Year A

Order of Mass: pg.7

Hymns: see hymn board

Reading and Prayers: pg.130

Preface IV: Ordinary Time, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations

14/15 January 2023

Envelopes	£ 306.31
Loose	£ 279.28
Total	£ 585.59

Standing Orders December 2022 **£ 3,285.00**

Church Cleaning TEAM 4: M Pinto & N Pinto. (Saturday).

Lavina will not be available on Mondays & Thursdays.

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

Confirmation 2023: Our next meeting will be on Monday at 5pm in the Manning Room. Please see the session dates on the Parish website.

First Holy Communion: Parents Meeting on Tuesday 31st January at 6pm in the church, as per the calendar. The meeting should take up to an hour.

Parents, please make sure you collect the workbook at the meeting (31st Jan) or from the Parish Office on Wednesday or

Friday 10am to 4pm before the start of the first session. The book costs £15, please bring the exact change.

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: A big **THANK YOU** to all our parishioners who have been supporting our parish through Standing Order, Weekly Donation Envelopes, Gift Aid Scheme, Blue Envelopes and to all those who are planning to join. Please continue your support.

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

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 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

Sunday Tea/Coffee Morning: Every Sunday after 9:30am Mass in the Manning Room. All are welcome.

Repository: The Repository will be open before and after all the Masses on 4th/5th February.

Family Rosary and Fish & Chips on the first Friday of each month – the next date is 3rd February 2023 – Come and pray the Rosary at 5.15PM in the Church, followed by Fish & Chips in the Manning Room. Adult portion £9, kids portion £5.50. RSVP to place your food order by Wednesday 1st February to Cerys Bow 07884 005 190. You don't have to have children to come – you just have to like them!

Stewards & Minister's Rotas: The new rota is available in the Church Porch and online on the Parish website - Parish Groups.

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.

Becoming Catholic 2022-23: 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.

First Holy Communion 2023: Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

First Holy Communion 2023: 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. Stickers are issued before Mass and will not be issued for a missed Sunday.

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

EVENTS

Racial Justice Sunday is on 5th February: The theme chosen for 2023 is *"All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together"*. This was inspired by observations made by Pope Francis during his visit to Canada last year when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation' and by conversations following RJS 2022.

World Day of the Sick 2023: The 31st World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday 11th February. There will be a Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2.30pm, celebrated by the Cardinal, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Please can you book tickets through the simple booking system, <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-of-the-sick-with-anointing-tickets-513878322897>. Please see the notice board & parish website for message from Pope Francis and the Poster.

Retrouvaille - A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages: To register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

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. It 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." That is not the way to true happiness, to beatitude. True happiness, beatitude, is found in living according to the wisdom which Christ brought us.

Sadly I cannot go through all the beatitudes in a short reflection like this, so I will simply take three.

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. 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.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:

**Peter McGloin, Mary Taylor, Sheila Roughan,
Anthony (Tony) Johnson, Thomas Harrington, Kay Burbage.**

FUNERAL

Elaine Ann Callow – Friday 10th February, 10:30am

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