



# ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

TELEPHONE: 01932 783 507 EMAIL: [SUNBURYONTHAMES@RCDOW.ORG.UK](mailto:SUNBURYONTHAMES@RCDOW.ORG.UK)

WEB: [PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/SUNBURYONTHAMES/](http://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/SUNBURYONTHAMES/)

RECTOR: FR CHRISTIAN DE LISLE

ADMINISTRATOR: LAVINA MENEZES E FERNANDES

## NEWSLETTER

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 ✦ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS TIMES

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

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

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

**CHURCH OPENING TIMES:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 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.

### MASS BOOK THIS SUNDAY

*Year B*

Order of Mass: pg.7

Hymns: see hymn board

Reading and Prayers: pg.85

Preface I of Advent: THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST, pg.65

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

*Thank you for your generous donations*

	<u>25/26 Nov</u>	<u>2/3 Dec</u>
Envelopes	£ 428.00	£ 287.00
Loose	£ 312.45	£ 361.20
Total	<u>£ 740.45</u>	<u>£ 648.20</u>

**Church Cleaning Team 1:** A & C Roberts (Thursday)

**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](mailto:sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk) & for Parish Centre(s) bookings, please email at [sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk) or contact Lavina, Parish Administrator at the Parish office.

### PARISH NOTICES

**Parish Carol Service:** The parish will be having a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:45pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Loyola Centre. If you would like a ticket please email Mary Soane [group51@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group51@hcpt.org.uk). The suggested donation is £5, children come free. Tickets will also be available on the day. All money raised will support the parish Handicapped Children Pilgrimage Trust group (HCPT). Adults and children welcome.

**Children signing rehearsal:** There will be a rehearsal for the children who volunteered to sing at the Carol Service at 4pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the church.

**Thank you for your generosity:** We have raised towards *Sick & Retired Priests' fund* £581.01, *CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest 2023* £139.39, *HCPT* £50 and to St Ignatius 100 Club for the donation of £1,215 toward parish upkeep.

### CHRISTMAS 2023

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> December** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

10:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

6pm Vigil Mass

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

9:30am and 11:30am Masses

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December** *Christmas Eve*

6pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

11:30pm Christmas Midnight Mass

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December** *Christmas Day*

9:30am and 11:30am Masses

Church closes after Mass

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December** *Christmas Week*

Church CLOSED

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December** *Holy Family Sunday*

6pm Vigil Mass

NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

9:30am and 11:30am Masses

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024** *Solemnity of Mary*

11:30am Mass

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

11:30am Mass

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

9:30am Mass, we are back to normal.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and New year 2024! Fr Christian  
Parish Office is CLOSED from 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024

• Christmas Flower collection is next weekend, 16/17 Dec.

• Ministers Christmas Rota will be available for signing in the Church porch from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Signing of Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) for Reception**

**School:** Parents are invited to book an appointment with Fr Christian via the Parish website or SCAN this QR code. The closing date for on-time applications to Primary schools is 15 January 2024.



HCPT have a few places remaining for both helpers and children to join them on their holiday/pilgrimage to Lourdes next Easter. For more information contact Mary Soane 07737899487 or [group51@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group51@hcpt.org.uk)

**Confirmation 2024:** Teenagers in Years 9 & 10 are invited to join the Confirmation course by signing up via the Parish Website or SCAN this QR code. Registration will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Meetings will start in January.



### 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. 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 visit our Parish Website.

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

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like to offer a Mass, please use the blue envelopes that are available in the Church Porch. Please drop your Mass intention envelope with all the details on the slip through the Rectory - Letterbox or email the Parish Office. Please provide the date & time of your preference, full name and Mass intention.

**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 Masses on the weekends of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

#### First Holy Communion 2024:

1. Please **Sign up** for the setup and clear up rota. The parents of each child should sign up for three slots each on a first come first serve basis.
2. The **session dates** are available on the Parish Website.
3. Parish office has still NOT received **payments** from some parents for the Reconciliation book (£15) which your child has received.
4. **Mass Attendance card:**
  - a. Stickers are issued to FHC children before Mass on Saturdays and Sundays. The child should be present for Mass with his/her card.
  - b. Sticker will not be issued if your child is not present for Mass, has forgotten to bring the card to Mass, has missed to attend Mass or collect sticker.
  - c. Please make sure that the Attendance Card has the Child's full name, this will help the Stewards to identify the card and in case its lost. If you find a lost card, please drop it into the Rectory letter box or give it to Fr Christian or the Stewards.

**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, held at 9:30am on Saturdays twice a

month. A child's baptism can be booked for any Saturday which work. Baptisms are at 12noon.

**Becoming Catholic 2023-24:** 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.

### FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

This past week, on Friday, we celebrated one of the greatest feasts of Our Lady. The feast of is Immaculate Conception. This is not to be confused with the Virgin Birth. The Immaculate Conception, rather, means that Our Lady was born with a singular grace, an incomprehensible gift which no others, save Our Lord Himself, can boast: she was born free from the stain of Original Sin. She was born free from that primaeval division from perfection, from the Good God, which binds all humanity and is why we are "a people who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." She was saved by the sacrifice of her divine Son before she even bore Him.

This had been planned by God from the beginning. Man, as a free creature, could and would fall away from God, but God would go one further than merely starting again with a perfect, unblemished creation, He would draw goodness out of evil, he would enter into this fallen world and remake it from within with sweet yet cutting power of his Word and the gentle but uncontrollable fire of His Holy Spirit. For "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." It would be quite beneath God to leave His image to the power of sin and death. Hence, even in that first moment of sin, God rounds on the serpent who tempted Eve saying "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and your seed and her seed: she shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for her heel."

Later there are further glimpses of this future... Solomon sings a prophesy in his Song of Songs "Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?" The prophet Isaiah glimpses Our Lady's virginity: "the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." Again, Solomon sings in prophesy: "thou art all beautiful, O my love, and there is no stain in thee."

But why? Why did God choose to send this grace to Our Lady? To put it into a simple sentence, it was because it was fitting. As the tradition has it in the Latin: "'deucit, potuit, ergo fecit" – "It was fitting, God could do it, and so God did do it." Often we can think that God must somehow work like some sort of cosmic computer, that there must be a logical necessity behind all his actions. No doubt God always acts with good reason (he is certainly never contrary to reason), but God constantly acts in a way which accomplishes his design in the most fitting, appropriate way. Our Lady is a daughter of Eve, a sister to us all, but she is also mother through her motherhood of the first man of the new humanity, the perfect humanity without sin and death, Jesus Christ. The ancient and the bound up in a single person, Our Lady Immaculate.

### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:  
**Fr Mark Leenane, Liselotte Le Baigue (Lottie), Derek Brown, Nicholas Wells, Winnie Forry, John Archer, Mary Murphy.**  
*+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+*