



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

21ST JANUARY 2024 ✦ THIRD 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 B

Order of Mass: pg.7

Hymns: see hymn board

Reading and Prayers: pg.129

Preface III: THE SALVATION OF MAN BY A MAN, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations

13/14 January 2024

Envelopes £ 239.00

Loose £ 297.55

Total £ 536.55

Church Cleaning TEAM 2: J O'Connell, J Sellings, P Goodfellow (Wednesday)

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 2024: First Meeting on Monday 22nd January from 5pm-6:30pm in the Manning Room. Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

First Confessions: this Tuesday 23rd at 5pm in the Church.

Quiz & Supper in aid of HCPT Group 51: Saturday 28th January, 7:15 at the Loyola Centre. The Quiz - Teams of up to 6 people, but if you don't have a team come along anyway & we will allocate you to a team. The Supper - Baked potato & chilli/vegan chilli. (Please advise of any dietary requirements) Tickets £15. Contact Mary Soane group51@hcpt.org.uk or 07737899487.

Crib offering 2023: Thank you for your generous donations, we have raised £288.49

Holy Water Jar: The parish has bought a new terracotta jar with a tap to dispense Holy Water to those who need it. If anyone in the parish is able to stencil the words HOLY WATER onto the jar, please speak to Fr Christian.

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.

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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](#)

Family Rosary and Fish & Chips on the first Friday of each month – the next date is 2nd 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 31st January 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 will be available next week in the Church Porch and online on the Parish website

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

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 (CCP) 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>.
- **ONLINE APPOINTMENTS will be scheduled:** For Secondary Transfer Year 7 - Sept - Oct, Reception - Nov - Jan & Nursery - Feb- Apr before the deadline. 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 2024: Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

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.

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.

EVENTS

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s): Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life on 16-18 February 2024 at Liverpool organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Contact Sr Lynne FCJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

A Day with Mary: *Holy Apostles Winchester Street, Pimlico* on Saturday 3rd February from 9:30am to 5pm. Kindly see the poster on the Church Notice Board for more information.

Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February, 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, SE1 7HY. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

Escorted Tour to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th – 15th March 2024. £899.00pps. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com . For more information, please see the poster on the notice.

Pilgrimage to Fatima Fri 7th– Fri 14th June 2024: Booking Form with full details available on request or at www adaywithmary.org. Please see the poster on the notice.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

This Sunday is one which has been recently dedicated in a particular way to meditating on the gift of the scriptures. The Holy Bible, a collection of histories, prophecies, parables, poems, prayers and revelations, is central to our Christian understanding of who God is and even of ourselves. As St Paul succinctly puts it: "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16).

As Catholic Christians we understand God as one who, while unknowable in Himself, has, by His infinite love and mercy, revealed Himself to us. God's revelation to us is very different from every other piece of knowledge we might have. Most knowledge we have not directly come to through our own senses is taken on faith. We might have faith that our doctor knows what he is doing. We might have faith that a scientist knows what he is talking about when he explains the inner workings of the atom. These are all things we believe which might or might not be true (though we may have good reason to think them true). Faith in the revelation of God is very different. Unlike the historian, the doctor or the scientist, God is the One who can neither deceive nor be deceived. If, then, we accept God's revelation as being truly from Him then we need have no fear of any part of it being wrong. The truths contained within it are not relative or uncertain. They are absolute truth.

The revelation of God to us has two forms: The Bible and our Sacred Tradition. Today we reflect on the first of these, but to truly understand the first we must include the second. The bible is filled with many stories and passages which have an uncertain meaning on a first read. Some parts seem contradictory and some other parts may seem fantastical. As Catholics we always read the bible in the way which has been handed down to us, through the Church, since the time of the apostles. This does not necessarily give us all the answers, but it certainly gives us some solid guidelines.

For example, some parts of the bible are parables or stories with a meaning which are more important than whether the events described happened exactly like that. Other parts are indeed history and should be taken at face value. By using the tradition handed down to use we can work out which is which. Two cases might be the days of creation and the resurrection of Christ. In the first case, there has never been a consensus among Christians as to exactly what "days" means in the creation story. Some have said it means a twenty-four-hour period, while others have taken it to have symbolic meaning and that the time taken to create the world may have been instantaneous or taken billions of years. We are free to decide on what seems best to us. In the second case, the tradition is clear: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." That Christ literally rose from the dead is something which every orthodox Catholic has believed since it happened, and will continue to believe until the end of time.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:

**Derek Brown, Nicholas Wells, Winnie Forry,
John Archer, Mary Murphy, Mary Fitzgerald.**

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