



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

28TH JANUARY 2024 ✦ FOURTH 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.132

Preface IV: THE HISTORY OF SALVATION, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations

20/21 January 2024

Envelopes £ 362.22

Loose £ 378.52

Total £ 740.74

Church Cleaning TEAM 3: C Dos Passos & N Dunu (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

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!

Repository: The Repository will be open before and after all Masses this weekend.

My Day by Day: Lent 2024, Daily Reading booklets are available in the Church Porch for £1. Please take a copy & place your donations in the basket provided.

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](#)

Stewards & Minister's Rotas: The new rota is available 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.

Confirmation 2024: Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

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

Today is Racial Justice Sunday: The theme "*Seeing One Another in the Life of the Church*" celebrates the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year's theme seeks to promote reflection, discussion and action on our theme.

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.

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

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

The Second Reading for this Sunday touches on one of the less understood parts of the faith today, the practice, clearly attested to here, at the earliest times, of Christian celibacy.

Christians who embrace celibacy "for the Kingdom of Heaven" do so in imitation of Christ Himself. During His earthly ministry our Lord did not marry, did not father children and did not place any particular emphasis on his family. It seems likely that this was because in previous religious movements, family had been very important. Familial descent from Abraham made one a Jew, one of God's chosen people. The leaders of the people were drawn from those descended from the first leaders. But that is not how our Lord wanted it to be. Our Lord's program of radical recreation meant that while he was born a son of Adam like the rest of us, he was also son of God and able to invite us into that sonship through baptism. "To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God". This is nothing less than a new humanity and no genetic relationship is needed to be part of that.

This is also all related to the true end of all members of the new humanity, life in heaven. The blessed are transfigured into reflections of God and so "become like him, because they see him as he really is." In this state, there is no family any more. All are one in Christ. As our Lord says "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."

Does any of this, however, mean that we are now denigrating marriage? God forbid. Marriage and family are good and holy and necessary. Indeed, so wonderful is the mystery of marriage that our Lord raised it to the level of a sacrament. It is therefore a means of grace and sanctification. Marriage is an image of the life of heaven where Christ the bridegroom forever rejoices with his bride, the Church triumphant. Meditating upon marriage like this can be particularly good for we who are discerning a call to celibacy.

Those who embrace celibacy set aside this greatest of all earthly goods. The only thing which can justify such an act of renunciation is our unswerving, hope fixed on heaven. In doing so they too become icons of the life of heaven, as married people do, but in a way, which emphasises more the final end of the Christian life.

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+*