



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

3RD MARCH 2024 ✦ THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 9:55am

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.158

Preface I of Lent: THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF LENT, pg.70

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations

24/25 February 2024

Envelopes £ 586.15

Loose £ 387.73

Total £ 973.88

Standing Orders January 2024 £ 3618.00

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

Confirmation & First Holy Communion 2024: Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

St Ignatius 100Club: It's the March 100Club. Draw this weekend. Come along to the Manning Room after 9.30am Mass and watch the excitement of the draw. Good Luck to all our Members!

Cake and Savouries sale: AFTER ALL MASSES next weekend 9th & 10th March, there will be lots of delicious home-made cakes, biscuits and savouries, including some vegan and dairy free goodies. If you can bake a cake or some smaller cakes that would be a great help, just bring them along to your normal mass and hand them to Helen or Liz before or after Mass. PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CASH! All proceeds will go to the Surrey North Branch of Cruse, the largest National Bereavement Support Charity in the UK. Grief can be devastating and your donation will help people who are struggling with grief to get the support they need when someone dies. Thank you.

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

Stewards & Minister's Rotas: Please note, that the Ministers of the Eucharistic rota is amended (6pm Mass). The updated 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

CAFOD Family Fast Day: There will be a retiring collection **TODAY**. Please use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk. For volunteering opportunities visit [Volunteer\(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Volunteer(cafod.org.uk))



Scan the QR Code and find out more about James and the fishing project in Liberia.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the Parish Office at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk with the following details: husband and wife's full names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) **by Sunday 31st March.**

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024: If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to

everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. **Scan the QR Code** to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.



FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

The first reading this week is a very famous one, the giving of the Ten Commandments. Commandments can often seem like something of an imposition. A decision imposed on us from above. This is not, however, what the law of God is really like. Rather, God gives us the law as a revelation of reality, a revelation of what it is to be good, to be happy. A blueprint from a restored world. This is why, in the fulness of time, Jesus Christ Himself came not to abolish the Law, but to complete it. God wishes to enter into our broken condition and reform it, remould it to be what it truly should be: perfect, the reflection of God's own image and a reflection of the perfect Goodness which God created from the beginning and will return all things too in the end.

To help us in this God has revealed his Law to us. As I have said, these are not arbitrary laws imposed for no reason, but are the very secrets of happiness, of what we must do to become truly human, to become truly loving people. He first revealed this to the ancient people of Israel, as we have heard. A lot of people, however, think Jesus was saying something new when he revealed the golden rule: love God above all things and your neighbour as yourself. This greatest rule is actually the basis for all the other ten, and the entirety of the Old Testament witnesses to this.

This is why Christ could not possibly have come to abolish the law. The moral law is eternal, it reflects the very inner life of God himself. He could never be abolished without God denying his own nature – which is, of course, impossible. What Christ does bring, however, is the completeness of the law. In His life he is, for us God's one, total, final Word. All that God could say to explain the law better is said in the life of Christ. He is the Word of God, and God has not got a second.

An important question which may be lurking in the back of our minds when we meditate on these mysteries is about all of those seemingly arbitrary laws in the Old Testament which we now ignore? Laws like not eating pork, or not wearing mixed fibres, what of them? The simple answer is that these laws are not moral laws, they are ritual laws. These laws all relate to ritual purity. They relate to the worship which the ancient Hebrews rendered to God in the great Temple in Jerusalem. But since Christ was sacrificed on the altar of the cross, his sacrifice replaces all others. Christians do not follow the Jewish ritual laws because the ancient rituals of the Jews have been abolished for us, and replaced by Christ, whose grace is poured out upon us through the sacraments. So you see: the moral law is eternal, unchangeable, but the ritual laws were replaced by Christ.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:

Nicholas Wells, Winnie Forry, John Archer, Mary Murphy, Mary Fitzgerald, Gerald & Roberta Roberts, Brendan Naylor.
+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+