# 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


# N E W S L E T T E R

5th January 2025 ✠ The Epiphany of the Lord

**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 C*
Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg.114 (Vigil), pg.115 (During Day)
Preface: The Epiphany of the Lord, pg.67

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

*Thank you for your generous donations*

*There was no counting last week, numbers will be available next week.*

**Church Cleaning TEAM 7:** Mr And Mrs Kennedy (Sat)

**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 2025:** A final call for teenagers in Years 9 & 10. All are invited to join the Confirmation course by signing up on the Parish Website. Applications for this year close next Sunday, 12th January. *The course will start on Monday 20nd January.*

**Quiz & Supper in aid of HCPT Group 51:** Saturday 25th January, 7pm 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.

**AN EPIPHANY HYMN**

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:
*O star of wonder, star of light,*
*star with royal beauty bright,*
*westward leading, still proceeding,*
*guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

## 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:** The new rota is available in the Church Porch and online on the Parish website - *Parish Groups*.

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

## 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 2025**: Please see the session dates on the Parish Website.

**First Holy Communion 2025**: 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.

**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

Today we celebrated the final day in our Twelve Days of Christmas, the Epiphany of the Lord. In particular we remembered the visit of the Wise Men, or 'Magi,' to the Holy Family. We do not actually know much about who the Magi were from the bible: for one thing we don't know if there were three of them and even if they were all men! We know that Magi were Persian court philosophers filled with great learning and who also had a particular fascination with astronomy. Any peculiar celestial activity would never have escaped their attention.

But what is the meaning of this visit? Firstly and foremostly the visit of the Magi is a prefiguration in Our Lord's childhood His destiny of opening up the New Covenant to all the nations of the world. This is why we call this feast the Epiphany, a word meaning "showing" (as in, the showing of Christ to all the nations). Traditionally the Magi are represented as being African, Arab and European. This again emphasises to us the universality of Our Lord's mission. This is also why the Magi have often been represented by Christian artists as kings, it echoes the words of the Psalmist "may all kings fall down before him."

Another important aspect of the Epiphany is that the Magi are scholars. For these past two thousand years men and women of deep learning have turned to Christ as their saviour. This is, of course, the action of grace first of all, but it is also because the search for true wisdom has its natural end in Christ. Our Lord is Himself the Truth, He is the fullness of Wisdom and Knowledge: the Word of God. The ancient Fathers of the Church often emphasised this to the pagan world they were trying to convert: the search for Truth naturally leads towards He who is Truth. Christians are never afraid of study or open enquiry as we know that all truth is one, truth cannot stand against truth. The Truth of our faith is compatible with all real wisdom and knowledge.



### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
**Eileen Archer, Alfi Watts, Alan Robertson, Leonie Andrews, Margaret Tuck, James (Jim) Webb**

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