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

12TH JANUARY 2025 ✠ THE BAPTISM 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.118
Preface: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, pg.68

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

21/22 December 2024

Envelopes	£ 218.50
Loose	£ 647.72
Total	**£ 866.22**

24/25 December 2024

Envelopes	£ 592.20
Loose	£ 1,675.32
Total	**£ 2,267.52**

	28/29 Dec 2024	4/5 Jan 2025
Envelopes	£ 151.00	£ 205.25
Loose	£ 367.40	£ 409.16
Total	**£ 518.40**	**£ 614.41**

Church Cleaning 6: J Rodrigues, C Lobo & A Vadakathara (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 2025: The course will start on Monday 20th January.

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: The session starts this Sunday 12th January, 10:30am-11:20am.

The **payment** for the second course book (Eucharist), £20 is now due before Thursday 23rd January. Thank you to all the parents who have already paid. We are aiming to distribute the prelabelled books from Tuesday 28th January during the First confession in the Church. ***NO PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THAT DAY BY THE CATECHISTS.***

For cash payment, please drop it into the letter box in an envelope OR scan the QR Code to pay via the parish website *option 3 or 6,* please mention *'FHC - CHILD'S NAME'* and please send an email to *sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk*.

Crib offering 2024: Thank you for your generous donations, we have raised £225.58

Chilli'n Quiz & Supper in aid of HCPT Group 51 and Cruse Bereavement Support:

On 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 07737 899487.

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: If you wish to support your parish by Weekly Donation Envelopes or Standing Order, please complete *Parish Gift Aid & Standing Order (Green) Form* available in the Church Porch or contact the Parish Office **OR** Scan the QR code to donate online.

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.

Becoming Catholic 2025: 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.

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.

EVENTS

Peace Sunday 2025 - 19th January: Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace has been published and his theme is *'Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace'.* The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, with out fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. Please find the envelopes in the church porch.

Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat: Friday 7 March to Sunday 9 March 2025 at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London led by Fr Marinko Šakota OFM, the former parish priest of St James, Medjugorje. The retreat is residential but there are places for day participants. For more information and to book please contact Paul Spencer at pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com or on 07710567183 before 31/1/25

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. That our Lord should start His public ministry by being baptised may seem a little strange. How can He who is God, who is utterly without sin, be baptised, a sign of repentance and the washing away of sins?

The answer is twofold. Firstly, there is the answer our Lord gives Himself: that He was baptised "to fulfil all righteousness." This refers to a number of things. God had been planning the sacrament of baptism, and revealing prophesies of it, for many centuries. For example, there are the various ritual baths commanded in the law of Moses; and there are the various stories from the Old Testament of lepers being cured and "made clean" by a washing in water. Christ fulfils the prophesies by instituting baptism, most importantly through His death on the cross but also through His sanctification of the water in His own baptism. Here again we see that Christ, as the source of invincible life, is not affected by things like we are. Rather, He affects them. Thus He does not become "ritually unclean" by touching lepers, the lepers become clean instead; He encounters no dead bodies in the whole of scripture which He does not bring back to life, since death cannot abide in His presence; and rather than being washed clean of sin and reborn in the waters, as we are, His entering the waters in His baptism purifies and sanctifies the waters for all time so that it may forever be used in baptism.

The second important thing our Lord is showing in His baptism is related to the first: it is a demonstration of His profound humility, His total self-emptying for us. From the moment our Lord took flesh in the womb of our Blessed Lady He started the process of self-emptying, of putting aside the glory and majesty which have been His from all eternity. This process was to continue throughout His life as He embraced everything which we, as human beings, experience: childhood, adolescence, work, family, sickness, suffering, pain and, in the end, death itself. So, in His baptism, Christ once again empties Himself for us.

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+