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

19TH JANUARY 2025 ✠ SECOND 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 C*

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg.127
Preface II: THE MYSTERY OF SALVATION, pg.68

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

11/12 January 2025

Envelopes	£ 210.00
Loose	£ 460.79
Total	**£ 670.79**

Church Cleaning 5: S & C Rodrigues (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 2025: The course will start on Monday 20th January in the Manning Room.

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: 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.*** Please email the parish office if you have any concerns or queries.

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*.

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.

Help Beat Leprosy Collection - **weekend 25/26 January 2025:** Every day, 500 people are diagnosed with leprosy, including 28 children. Untreated, it can cause disabilities, blindness, and stigma, leaving millions suffering in silence. The Charity Lepra has been fighting leprosy for over 100 years, providing treatment, support, and hope for a future free from this disease. Leprosy is curable, and with your help, more lives can be transformed. Visit www.lepra.org.uk to learn more or contact LauriceJ@lepra.org.uk. Even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

Contactless in our Parish

The parish is delighted to announce that we now have a contactless card machine to make supporting our parish easier. It is in the porch to the right as you enter.

Contactless payments are *touch-free* with no need to type in your pin or hand over your card. Simply select the set sum of amounts that you might like to give or by tapping 'Other' you can enter the amount that you wish to give. Then touch your card, smart phone or smart watch to the reader, listen for the beep, and your payment is done.

If you would prefer to use your pin, you can also insert your card into the payment device and enter your pin to make a payment.

If you are registered for Gift Aid, please use the same card that is registered for your Gift Aid donations.

Donations made via the contactless giving device will go straight to the Parish account as **OFFERTORY COLLECTION.**

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.

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.

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. Every donation counts and if you are able to give and support us, please find the envelopes in the church porch.

Diocesan jobs – Please see the Notice board or for further details, please visit https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

Vacancy: Exam Invigilators at Gumley House School: We are seeking to appoint enthusiastic Exam Invigilators with excellent customer service skills to join our vibrant community at Gumley. Salary Scale: £13.50 an hour. If you are interested in this position please email Donna Godwin (PA to Headteacher) at dgodwin@gumleyhouse.com

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening." These words of the Prophet Samuel are perhaps the simplest yet most effective words from scripture to begin prayer. Prayer is one of those regular practices which we all know that we should pursue but often don't know where to start, what to do and what to avoid. While prayer is something which comes naturally in many instances it also something which benefits greatly from regular practice and an appreciation for the work of the great spiritual masters.

Prayer is the response of faith to the free gift of Salvation from God, and he calls us to it, ultimately, so that, as all human beings do, we may become like what we adore: a reflection of God. The perfect preparation for the mystical union which we will experience with God in heaven. St Teresa of Lisieux said this of prayer: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." A slightly drier but perhaps more accessible definition of true prayer is that of St John of Damascus: "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."

As Christians we are called to imitate Christ in all things. Naturally, this should extend to His prayer life. So, if we are to grasp the basics of prayer we need look no further than His life. Our Lord learns, firstly to pray in the words and rhythms of the prayer of his people, in the synagogue at Nazareth and the Temple at Jerusalem. "I must be in my Father's house." So, we should start with that prayer. The prayer of the House of God, the public prayer of the church.

Sadly, this is often difficult in our own time. But Our Lord is also often drawn away to pray in solitude, on a mountain, preferably at night. In one of his directives on prayer he tells us "when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. We might pray with a text, a sacred image, candles or just in a quiet room. Ways to engage beyond this are many and we should not feel that we *must* follow any particular path. As our patron St Ignatius quipped "pray as you can, not as you can't."

As we meditate we may be granted times moments of true contemplation. The Catechism calls contemplation "the pre-eminently intense time of prayer." Contemplative prayer is a communion in which the Holy Trinity conforms man, the image of God, "to his likeness." We can do contemplation as part of any liturgy or devotion. What is vital is our interior participation. It is important to prepare. But it is a gift. It will come, but often it will not come. Patience is vital. We may have distractions this is inevitable and not a sin. Then we can say with Samuel "speak Lord, your servant is listening" to refocus ourselves. We may also experience what the spiritual masters call "dryness" or "the dark night." This is the feeling of the absence of God. This is a normal part of the rhythm of prayer. It is God's way of purifying our prayer, drawing us on towards him, drawing us deeper. It is something all the saints experienced.

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+