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

26th January 2025 ✠ Third 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.129
Preface III: THE SALVATION OF MAN BY A MAN, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

18/19 January 2025

Envelopes	£ 253.84
Loose	£ 387.02
Total	**£ 640.86**

Church Cleaning TEAM 1: A & C Roberts (Thursday)

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

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025:

- There is **no session** this Sunday.
- **First Confessions -** Tuesday 28th January at 5pm in the Church for younger & older FHC children.
- Parents are requested to collect their child's *Eucharist book* on the same day (Tuesday 28th January) from the Manning Room. ***NO PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THIS DAY.*** Please email the parish office if you have any concerns or queries.

Confirmation 2025: Next session on Monday 27th January at 5pm in the Manning Room. More info, on Parish website.

Help Beat Leprosy Collection - **TODAY:** 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.

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

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: 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

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

St Richard Reynolds Catholic College Vacancies: The college is currently looking for: Teacher of Religious Education, Teacher of French, Teacher of PE (Girls), Part-time Art Technician. For more information, view our website. Please contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk or phone 020 8325 4630.

Word on Fire UK Bible Conference | February 2025: If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday or just a day pass for the Saturday. Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025 at Excel Centre, East London Speakers: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more. For more information and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

This Sunday marks the "Sunday of the Word of God," a celebration instituted by Pope Francis in 2020 to reemphasis to the faithful the enduring value of studying, and praying with bible.

As Catholics we, above all, place our faith in the Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ, and His body on earth, the Church. The scriptures are the preeminent place in which the Deposit of Faith, given by Christ to the Church, is distilled. While the bible has many different books, written at different times, in different genres and concerned with different matters, the entire bible is the infallible work of God Himself.

Does this mean we are to take the bible as the first, last and only authority in matters of faith? Not exactly. The scriptures do contain every element of the faith and nothing can be "added" to the faith, even on the authority of a pope, if it is not in accord with scripture. That said, the bible should be both interpreted within, and is explicated by, Sacred Tradition. Sacred Tradition is not like normal human traditions. The term refers to the Church's memory, as it were, of Christ Himself, His Apostles and the earliest Christians. We know that the Church can never abandon Tradition. Christ explicitly promised, in John 14:26, to send "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you."

Does this mean the bible is to be taken as historically true in all that it says? The answer to this depends upon the genre of the writing. Many parts of the bible are very clearly supposed to be a description of a historical event (e.g. the resurrection). Others can be parables, poetry, or visions which were never intended to be taken as a history lesson but were intended to teach vital truths about God and His plan for us. The Good Samaritan, for example, never existed: Our Lord told that story to teach us a lesson in charity, not to describe a historical event.

This Sunday of the Word of God is a good opportunity to engage with the bible anew by spending time reading it and praying with it. Simply reading a few lines a day, or perhaps trying to read one of the gospels cover to cover is an excellent way to start doing this. Reading the scriptures is an encounter with Christ and so need not be rushed. Fifteen minutes spent with a few verses can often by more valuable than skim reading several chapters.

The number one podcast in the world in the first week of January was a course of reading the bible started on January 1st by a priest in America. Resources online like this, from reputable sources, can be an excellent way to learn more and expand our faith even while sitting on the bus or walking to the supermarket.

As St Paul so wisely summarises, "all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17).

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+