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

2nd February 2025 ✠ The Presentation 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.299
Preface: MYSTERY OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, pg.76

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

25/26 January 2025

Envelopes	£ 255.70
Loose	£ 426.81
Total	**£ 682.51**

Church Cleaning TEAM 2: J O'Connell, J Sellings, P Goodfellow (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

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: There is **no session** this Sunday. Parents, some payments are still outstanding for the second book, please scan the QR code on the right side of this page. If you have not received your child's **"Eucharist" book** please email the parish office or reply to my email by Monday 3rd February and you can collect the book on Tuesday 4th. I am on annual leave on 5th & 7th hence will not be able to help you before the next session on Sunday 9th February, please make sure your child has the book before this date.

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.

Confirmation 2025: Next session on Monday 3rd February at 5pm in the Manning Room. More info, on Parish website.

St Ignatius 100Club: It's the February 100 club draw TODAY! Please join us in the Manning Room for a cuppa and the fun of the draw. Good Luck to all our members!

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: 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/

Mass for the sick (Lourdes Mass): Mass for the Sick, taking place at the Cathedral on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 2pm. Please scan the QR code to book your tickets: There are three categories of tickets: Wheelchair users who require anointing, Walking sick who require anointing and those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

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.

Home-Start Spelthorne -Volunteer Coffee Morning: To support parents with children under 5 by matching them with a trained volunteer who visits once a week for 2-3 hours to provide practical and emotional support. We need more volunteers but it is becoming increasingly difficult to get our recruitment message out. We have decided to run an informal coffee morning where people can come and find out a bit more about Home-Start and what volunteering entails on Tuesday 11th February 9:30-11:30am. If you would like to know more about Home-Start and how to refer a family for support, please contact us info@home-startspelthorne.org / 01784 463200.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

A perhaps more accurate translation of the second verse of today's gospel is "they were astonished at his doctrine because he taught them with authority." Living, as we do in a country which has at least theoretically been Christian for fifteen hundred years we can perhaps become overly used to the true originality of the gospel, of what Christ calls us to do.

So much of our sense of right and wrong is formed by the gospel that we often fall into thinking of it as mere common sense. While our society today is filled with people purporting to be atheists, there are precious few who have the courage of their conviction and throw out Christian morality along with worship of Almighty God. Indeed, we often see an ironic situation where those who have abandoned God use the very system of values given by Him to attack His followers. While all people are sinners, and Christians often no less, Christians can at least confidently say that we follow a system of morals which we believe because it has been taught to us "with [divine] authority."

I think particularly of our natural sympathy for the oppressed, for the meek and the suffering. This is not a universal value. Ancient society saw no value in suffering and thought the domination of the weak by the strong as natural. It is above all though the cross that a new way is revealed to us. The doctrine of Christ is at its newest and most radical when revealing that the God-Man will not come to crush and enslave His enemies but that He should come as a little baby, live in obscurity, suffer insult and injury and should die.

Without the cross claims about universal human dignity and the value of the individual, while good, are built on sand.

Obviously, there is a great deal of good in many atheists, but a post-Christian morality, cut off from its roots can also be positively dangerous. For example, the horrors of communist tyranny have partly been the product of a warped desire to make real, through human effort alone, the Kingdom of God on earth. Here lies an important lesson for us: we have a duty to work with all people of good will for the betterment of humanity, but we must also be on our guard against the mistakes which can and will always creep into any purely human endeavour. In America particularly, but also here, people are very divided at the moment. We can become wrapped up in thoughtlessly defending "their side" and attacking the other. This can, and does, often lead to a failure to see the good in the other side and the unchristian wickedness (and I use that word advisedly) on one's own side.

What can, and will, keep us form straying is to always have the cross before us. Only through the astonishing doctrine of the cross, through the mysteries which it unfolds to us, can we truly see the mind of God. In the cross is we see not only the best and the worst of humanity, but glimpse something of natural of God Himself.

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+