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

9th February 2025 ✠ Fifth Sunday in OT

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.135
Preface V: CREATION, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

Figures will be provided next week

Church Cleaning TEAM 3: C Dos Passos & N Dunu (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

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: The session starts this Sunday 9th February, 10:30am-11:20am in the Loyola Centre.

Confirmation 2025: Next session on Monday 10th February at 5pm in the Manning Room. More info, on Parish website.

Quiz night

Chilli'n Quiz & Supper: *Thank you to everyone* who came to the Quiz on 28th January. The friendly atmosphere, fabulous food, raffle and a few puzzling rounds of questions raised **£1600** which is being shared by HCPT Group 51 and Cruse Bereavement Support. ***Date for your diary***...Our next parish social event is an Irish night to be held on Saturday 22nd March. More details to follow.

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: 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/

Vigil of Our Lady of Lourdes, Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life on Monday 10th February please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting are urgently needed. Pray especially that Assisted Suicide won't be introduced. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact; The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740.

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 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. Please contact us info@home-startspelthorne.org / 01784 463200.

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. Tickets are available or just a day pass for Saturday. Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025 at Excel Centre, East London**.** For more information and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 1st March 2025 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/ or https://eventcatholic.com/

Jubilee Volunteering Fair: Saturday 8th March, 3pm - 5pm in Cathedral Hall, London SW1P 1QW**.** To celebrate the Jubilee of Volunteering Caritas Westminster are inviting you to a Volunteering Fair. Please email cvs@rcdow.org.uk or visit https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/jubilee-volunteering-fair/.
Make 2025 a rewarding year through volunteering!

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

The first reading this Sunday, from the Book of Job, is, on one level, quite a depressing passage. If, however, we unpack the story of Job we may find, however, that in this story we find a beautiful meditation on the value of our prayers, even in a time of deep distress and depression.

In the story of Job this passage forms part of Jobs speeches on desolation. In simple terms, the good things he had have been taken from him, his family are dead and his friends have abandoned him. He has nothing left to live for and curses the day he was born and asks to die. He has one thing left, that he does still trust in God, even if the absence of God seems inexplicable. He would, of course, go on to be restored to all that he once had and more. But that is in the far future now.

What are we to make of these passages? Perhaps the greatest exploration of Job ever written is Morals on Job by Pope St Gregory the Great (who was also the pope who sent the first Catholic missionaries to England). In it, St Gregory strongly emphasises God's responses to Job. While God seems to temporarily leave Job in his distress, the movement of the Spirit in Job is never stilled. As Job plunges further and further into anxiety and depression, Job's insight becomes clearer and clearer. Indeed, as he reaches the very end of his strength his insight breaks into prophesy and Job becomes the first person in the Old Testament to directly foresee the Resurrection of all in Christ.

Job says "may the day of my birth perish" and continues in passages like the one we heard today to lament the lot of all men. But, at the end, God does not rebuke him for saying these things. Rather, God "blessed all that Job had said." Why? Surely such despair is not of God? True, despair is truly a terrible thing, but here we do not see despair. Rather, we see a man who sees and professes the truth of what a life without God can be. That it is in Him alone that our joy and hope can lie in times when all other comforts fall away. Hence we see Job, at the moment of his greatest distress say those amazing words about the destiny of man: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

How relevant this insight seems in our own sad time. We have not suffered as Job did but we have obviously suffered. We have been cut off from our friends and much of our family, many of the things we enjoy most have been taken from us, and for a time we were even denied the comfort of the sacraments. Yet while our prayer may often lack the joy of happier times, and while we may be cut off from so much which gives comfort to our lives, our need for God but grows and our prayers become ever more precious in His sight, as we all may say "I know that my Redeemer lives."

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+