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

23rd February 2025 ✠ Seventh 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.141
Preface VII: SALVATION THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST, pg.70

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

15/16 January 2025

Envelopes	£ 205.03
Loose	£ 362.57
Total	**£ 567.60**

Standing Orders:
December 2024: £ 2,872.00
January 2025: £2,703 & Contactless: £51

Church Cleaning TEAM 5: S & C Rodrigues (Saturday)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays & Thursdays.

PARISH NOTICES

Ash Wednesday 5th March 2025: Please note this is a day of fasting and abstinence meaning that all Catholics aged 14 to 65 should refrain from meat and only eat one full meal (two snacks are acceptable). Anyone who cannot do this for health reasons is exempted.

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, a time of repentance and spiritual reflection, we kindly ask that **no flowers** be used to decorate the church during this period. Lent invites us to focus on prayer, sacrifice, and empathy with the suffering and spiritual journey of Jesus.

My Day by Day: Lent 2025, Daily Reading booklets and booklets for Junior are available in the Church Porch for £1. Please take a copy & place your donations in the basket provided.

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: The next session will be held on Sunday 2nd March, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre.

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

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: Weekly Donation Envelopes starting from 6th April 2025-2026 will be available for collection in March.

If you wish to support your parish by Weekly Donation Envelopes or Standing Order, please complete *Parish Gift Aid & Standing Order Form* available in the Church Porch or scan the QR code for the form or to donate online. Please drop the completed & signed form into letterbox.

If you wish to **cancel** your box of envelopes, please contact or email the Parish office ASAP - *sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk*

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.**

Jubilee Year: The Church celebrates 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a time of renewal, pilgrimage, and spiritual grace. This year invites us to deepen our faith through prayer and reflection on hope. In our diocese, resources like Words of Hope – A Pilgrim's Guide and the Jubilee Companion Booklet are available for free collection. Pilgrimage is central to the Jubilee, with the Westminster Way, a five-mile walking route, and the National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope leading to St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, on 13 September. Jubilee churches in our diocese will host events throughout the year, offering the Jubilee Indulgence. Visit rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025 for details.

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*

Ministers of the Eucharist: The updated 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.

EVENTS

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2025: This Holy Year invites us to be *'Pilgrims of Hope'.* We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our Diocese, including Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Catholic Education Initiatives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, extends his heartfelt thanks to all who give what they can to this meaningful cause. Donation envelopes are available today, and you can also contribute online using the QR code. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the Parish Office at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk with the following details: husband and wife's full names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Sunday 30th March.

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

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/

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Throughout history, in every time and place, people have worked tirelessly to destroy their enemies and rejoiced with abandon when it came. It is often difficult to love our neighbour as we ought. The task may seem overwhelming at times, especially when we hardly feel we have time to keep things together ourselves. How much more for those who are our enemies. Yet today Our Lord gives us this extraordinary, revolutionary and yet binding commandment: love your enemies.

While this may seem madness at first, the deep wisdom of what Our Lord commands us is clear if we reflect upon it for a while.

Note, firstly, that he commands us to love them, not like them. We cannot control who we like very well, but we can control who we love. As we heard about a few weeks ago, love can be simply described as an act of the will to work for the good of the other. The good of anyone, including our enemies, is, above all, that they should avoid evil and do good. If we have been the victim of some evil on their part then working for them to recognise and repent of that evil is very much the loving thing to do. If, on the other hand, we have wronged our enemy as least as much as he has wronged us then we know that repentance is needed on both sides.

This leads us to the second piece of great wisdom I would like to discuss in what Our Lord says today: the great value of reconciliation without recrimination. As believers in a just and loving God, we cannot doubt that whatever wrong has been done on earth, whether to us or to other people, will be repaid by God. Our God is a God of mercy and justice. This should give us the confidence to move on from mutual resentment without fear that we are abandoning those wronged in the past. How many ancient ethnic and national hatreds mar our world? How many of those hatreds have lead to unspeakable crimes in every century, including our own? These hatreds are often the result of real wrongs and genuine grievances, but they remain a festering wound so long as they are held. We English Catholics, to take one tiny example, do not abandon the memory of our martyrs if we are kind and friendly to our Anglican neighbours. For one thing, it was, after all, Anglicans who voted for our emancipation two hundred years ago. Animosity would serve no good purpose and would damage both us and the image of Christians as a whole. We love and honour our martyrs, we remember with sorrow the persecutions, confiscations, destructions and murders. But we do all this while united with all people of good will in our determination that such things should never happen again.

So, while the call to "love your enemies" may seem madness at first, we see that it is, in fact, true wisdom. God is just, God is merciful, we leave things in His hands and know that all will be well in the end.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Alfi Watts, Alan Robertson, Leonie Andrews, Margaret Tuck, James (Jim) Webb, William Ogle.

+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+