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 MARCH 2025 ✠ EIGHTH SUNDAY IN OT

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm & Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday *(see below)*, 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

ASH WEDNESDAY – 5th March 2025
MASSES AT 9:30AM, 12:30PM & 7:30PM
Reading and Prayers: pg.149; Preface III of Lent: pg.71

MASS BOOK THIS SUNDAY *Year C*
Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg.144
Preface VIII: THE CHURCH UNITED BY THE UNITY OF THE TRINITY, pg.70

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Thank you for your generous donation

22/23 February 2025

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

February 2025 Contactless: £331.62

Church Cleaning TEAM 6: J Rodrigues, C Lobo & A Vadakathara (Wednesday)

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.

St Ignatius 100Club: It's the 100 club draw this weekend. The draw will be held in the Manning Room after 9.30am Mass. Come along and enjoy a cuppa and the fun of the draw!

Irish Night: Please join us for an Irish Night on Saturday 22nd March from 7pm to 10pm at Loyola Centre. Enjoy a night of live Irish music, delicious food, and great company! Bring your own drinks and get ready for a lively celebration. For tickets, call Liz 07794 036608 or Rose 07783 799895. All surplus proceeds will be donated to HCPT & CRUSE. For more details, check out the poster on the church notice board. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: Weekly Donation Envelopes starting from 6th April 2025-2026 will be available for collection **from the weekend 8/9 March** in the Rectory porch before & after Mass. Kindly recycle all old envelopes after Sunday, 30th March, and begin using the new ones.

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.**

Aid to the Church in Need Appeal 8th/9th March 2025: Next weekend, we have an appeal from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) which is a Pontifical foundation of the Catholic Church. ACN supports over 5,000 projects helping the Church's mission internationally. ACN has stepped up its support for Christians in Lebanon, Syria and Holy Land in response to the deepening crisis offering food, medicine, help with education, pastoral programmes and other desperately-needed assistance. This year, ACN is also focusing on the suffering of young

Christians in priority countries, many of whom are orphaned and displaced due to targeted attacks against their Christian communities. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses.

If you wish to get involved in the charity, or if you wish to be an ACN volunteer, please contact John Ravi on 07932973650, John.Ravi@acnuk.org or visit www.acnuk.org.

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.

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 2024 - 2025: The session will be held today, Sunday 2nd March, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre. Please remember to collect your Attendance Card sticker before attending any of the weekend Masses.

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

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. A collection basket will be placed in the Church porch until the weekend of 5th/6th April 2025 for your donations. 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.*

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Jesus' words in today's Gospel strike at the heart of human nature. He does not offer a gentle suggestion but a piercing challenge: Can one blind man guide another? It is a question that exposes our tendency to judge others while failing to see our own faults. We are quick to notice the splinter in another's eye, yet slow to acknowledge the plank in our own.

This is not merely a call to humility, but to true vision—a vision that begins with self-examination. Christ is warning us against the blindness of pride, of hypocrisy, and of self-deception. It is easy to act as though we are spiritual physicians, diagnosing the ailments of those around us, yet Jesus reminds us that we must first undergo our own healing. Before we seek to correct others, we must allow God to correct us.

But there is something even deeper at play. Jesus speaks not just of blindness but of fruitfulness: A sound tree does not produce rotten fruit, nor a rotten tree sound fruit. Here, He shifts our attention from individual actions to the state of the heart itself. It is not enough to avoid hypocrisy; we must go further and cultivate goodness. For just as a tree's fruit reveals its nature, so too do our words and deeds reveal what lies within us.

This is a lesson that applies to every aspect of life. A priest, a teacher, a parent—anyone who is responsible for guiding others—must first ensure that they are rooted in Christ. The blind cannot lead the blind, and neither can an unformed heart lead others to holiness. If we desire to bring light to others, we must first allow Christ to open our own eyes. If we long to produce good fruit, we must allow Him to tend the soil of our souls.

And so, today, Christ asks us to pause. What fills our hearts? Are we storing up bitterness, resentment, or self-righteousness? Or are we drawing from a store of patience, charity, and humility? The answer will be found in our words, our actions, and in the way we treat those around us.

May we have the courage to take up His challenge—to remove the plank from our own eye, to tend the soil of our hearts, and to seek, above all, to bear good fruit. For it is not enough to know the truth; we must live it. And only then will we see clearly enough to lead others to Christ.

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+