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 March 2025 ✠ First Sunday of Lent

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.153
Preface VIII: THE TEMPTATION OF THE LORD, pg.71

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

1 /2 March 2025

Envelopes	£ 206.00
Loose	£ 458.72
Total	**£ 664.72**

Church Cleaning TEAM 7: Mr and Mrs Kennedy (Sat)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays & Thursdays.

PARISH NOTICES

Aid to the Church in Need Appeal TODAY: 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

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 are available for collection **from this weekend 8/9 March and next weekend 15/16 March** in the Rectory porch before & after Mass. You could also collect it from the Parish Office during weekdays.

Please use the new (sand coloured) envelopes from 6th April'25.

Kindly recycle all old envelopes after Sunday, 30th 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. 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.**

Stations of the Cross and Fish & Chips Supper: Join us for a Lenten evening of reflection and fellowship! Fridays, March 14th and April 4th, from 6pm at St. Ignatius Church for *Stations of the Cross* followed by a *fish & chips supper* in the Manning Room**.** All parishioners are welcome! Please RSVP your food order to Noora on 07850 327345.

REGULAR NOTICES

Funerals: To book a funeral, please contact the Parish Office.

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.

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.

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

First Holy Communion 2024 - 2025: The next session will be held on Sunday 16th March, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre. Please remember to collect your Attendance Card sticker before attending any of the weekend Masses.

EVENTS

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day - Friday, 14th March: Please donate and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change. Use the envelope in church or scan the QR code.

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. Donation envelopes are available today, and you can also contribute online using the QR code. A collection basket is placed in the Church porch until the weekend of 5th/6th April 2025 for your donations.

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

At the beginning of His public ministry, our Lord had one simple message: "Repent, and believe the Gospel." Repentance—the setting aside of everything within us that is not of God and turning toward the Gospel with all our hearts—is the very essence of being a true disciple. True conversion is not merely an internal change but must naturally express itself in action. We need, in short, to become better people. This means getting rid of bad habits, overcoming vices, and cultivating good habits—virtues.

During Lent, we are called in a particular way to do this by imitating our Lord's forty days of fasting in the desert. As St. James says, "By my works, I will show you my faith."

We do this in three ways: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—each helping us in a different way to discipline ourselves, shedding sinful vices and building up virtues.

Prayer is the foundation of the Christian life and the first step in our journey of conversion. As our Lord Himself says, "Without me, you can do nothing." Christ carried the sins of the whole world on His back as He climbed the hill of Calvary. It was hard, but He alone had the strength to do it. And He wants us to place our sins, our struggles, and all our burdens onto His shoulders. "I was born for this," He tells us just before His suffering.

Even when we do not feel the repentance we ought to feel, we can at least ask God for the grace of true repentance. More than that, we can ask for the strength to persevere in the future.

Fasting is something we do far less than our ancestors in the faith. For more than a thousand years, Christians would have eaten no meat for all of Lent and only one full meal a day! For most of us, such a practice might be unwise or impossible, but we can and should give up something.

Fasting is a powerful tool for spiritual growth. It helps us overcome the sin of greed, strengthens our self-discipline, and—perhaps most importantly—can create an opportunity to help others. The small sacrifices we make in fasting can leave us with a little extra to give to those in need.

Lent calls us not only to personal conversion but also to love and solidarity with those who suffer. Today, we are reminded of a particular group of people who desperately need our help: our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. Around the world, many Christians face imprisonment, violence, and even death simply for believing in the Gospel. While we may fast by choice, they often go hungry because of their faith. While we gather freely in worship, they risk their lives to do the same.

As Christians, we cannot ignore their suffering. Just as fasting helps us overcome greed, almsgiving helps us overcome selfishness and deepen our love for others. This Lent, we have a special opportunity to help through our collection for Aid to the Church in Need, a charity that provides vital support—spiritual and material—to persecuted Christians worldwide.

Let us remember: true conversion is not only about changing ourselves but about helping those who bear the cross of persecution. Let our prayers rise for them, our fasting remind us of their hunger, and our almsgiving provide them with the support they so desperately need. In doing so, we fulfill St. James's call: "By my works, I will show you my faith."

May this Lent be a time of true renewal, of deeper faith, and of greater love—both for Christ and for our suffering brothers and sisters.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Alan Robertson, Leonie Andrews, Margaret Tuck, James (Jim) Webb, William Ogle, Richard Chapman
+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+