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 March 2025 ✠ Third 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 9:55am

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.160
Preface II of Lent: SPIRITUAL PENANCE, pg.70

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

Figures will be provided next week

Church Cleaning TEAM 2: J O'Connell, J Sellings, (Wednesday)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays & Thursdays.

PARISH NOTICES

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: Weekly Donation Envelopes starting from 6th April 2025-2026 are available for collection **from this 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! Friday, 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

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.

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

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 on Sunday 30th 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 is on Monday 24th 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. 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.

Jubilee Care for Creation invitation, Monday 24th March 2025, 7pm to 8pm (online): Hear from the Repair Café at St Margaret's Parish, Twickenham, about how their volunteers offer a warm welcome with a cuppa, whilst they repair items, from electrical appliances to bikes and cuddly toys. Caritas Westminster are hosting this event, open to anyone interested in finding out more, and consider starting something similar in their own parish during this special Jubilee year. To join us online, please email stephencurran@rcdow.org.uk (07803 634240) for a Teams link or further info.

Young Adults LENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 5th April 2025, 10am – 5.30pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes: talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, faith sharing, mass and social time. Donations only. Register by emailing to: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

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.*

Rediscover Your Marriage – Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 20th - 22nd June 2025 Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

In today's Gospel Our Lord addresses one of the most difficult and often pressing questions which we might ask of God: why is it that sometimes the wicked seem to prosper? Indeed, this question may play on our minds more than usual right now as we see the horrible images of death and destruction in Ukraine play out on our television screens.

On the face of it, it seems that to prosper one should be good. After all, if we do the right thing, build a better world for ourselves and others, then surely good things will happen? Yet so often it does not. Perhaps we should simply believe that the strong prosper, and that is the way of nature. But how can we, as believers in a loving, good God?

So, how are we to understand all this? Firstly, we must always have the cross at the forefront of our minds. God Himself, in the flesh, Jesus Christ, was poor and suffered. He was despised, as had been prophesised, so much so that His detractors took Him, tortured Him and murdered Him. Perfection itself, and yet the appearance of failure. We may not know why this or that suffering has come upon us; we may not know, for now, what the cause is, but we can know with absolute certainty that God is there with us.

Secondly, there is what Our Lord says: be glad that God has the mercy to allow the wicked time to repent. However wicked a man might be, we cannot forget that he may one day be a greater saint than we ever will be. Our faith is a faith of redemption, of transformation. No one is beyond the power of God to save. Perhaps people do not always take the chances they are given by God, but at least they are given.

This is also important for us, as well as notorious sinners. We may not be known as a great sinner, but we most certainly have sinned. We too are given the chance to repent, the time to become holy, for every moment we remain here on earth. Let us not waste our time

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+