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

30TH March 2025 ✠ Fourth 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.168
Preface I of Lent: THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF LENT, pg.70

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

15/16 March 2025

Envelopes	£ 251.01
Loose	£ 484.18
Total	**£ 735.19**

22/23 March 2025

Envelopes	£ 215.02
Loose	£ 441.46
Total	**£ 656.48**

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, please *email at* ***sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk*** & for Parish Centre(s) bookings, email at ***sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk.***

PARISH NOTICES

Irish Night: Thank you to everyone who helped make the Irish night a great success. The celebrations included the music, DJ members of the O'Connor School of Dancing, soup, soda bread. We made a fantastic £1000 (after expenses), which is £500 for each of the charities - Cruse & HCPT. We would like to thank the musicians, dancers, Fr Christian and members of Maypole & St Ignatius Schools for their support, use of hall and carpark.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: Weekly Donation Envelopes starting from 6th April 2025-2026 are available for collection 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 or scan the QR code to donate now.

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.

Repository: The Repository will be open before and after all Masses this weekend. Easter cards, Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts will be on sale.

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.

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.

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.

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 Tuesday 1st April.*

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 Rozo Palic Healing Mission, Westminster Diocese: Inner Healing and Liberation Service by Fr Rozo Palic from Croatia on Wednesday 2 April 2025 at Polish Church of Divine Mercy, Pitts Road, Slough Berks SL1 3XH. Holy Mass at 10:15 am followed by a Talk and Prayer Ministry. All welcome. Pls call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

WINTERSHALL: The annual performances of '**The Passion of Christ'** live in Trafalgar Square, London on Good Friday, 18th April 2025. FREE performances at 12noon and 3:15pm. Also live streamed on Facebook. Please visit website at *www.wintershall.org.uk* for details of their play 'The Life of Christ' which is being staged at Wintershall from 17th -21st June.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

The prodigal son is in many ways the model of modern man: he strikes out bold and independent. He will make his own way in the world. But already at this stage there are little, background problems. Why is the prodigal son "squandering his money on a life of debauchery"? Because he thinks it is awfully fun, we might suppose to be the first reason. Well, yes, it might be amusing for a while. But there is an emptiness here. The prodigal son is cut off from his family. He has his wealth, but the source of that wealth, the family farm, he has left behind. He has gone off to a far distant country. He is a man alone.

The prodigal son is alone with nothing but finite pleasures to comfort him. Pleasure, for him, is nothing more than a drug to help him hide from the emptiness he has created in his own heart. Is this not the human condition? We find ourselves in this world as finite creatures. We look up into the stars, into the vast abyss of space and think that we are nothing, that it all ends in death. It is for good reason scripture call humanity without Christ "a people who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death."

It takes a fall into poverty to bring the prodigal son to his senses. When his riches run out and he cannot pay for any more pleasures to mask his own emptiness that the prodigal son sees that he must return to his father or die alone. Here is one of the reasons why God has always particularly loved the poor. Poverty is not, of course, a good thing in itself. It is painful, and grinding and miserable and we must do all in our power to alleviate it. But, those who are in it are at least more likely to see the truth of their own condition. They are not shackled to this earth with chains of gold and silver.

So the son returns to the bosom of his family, to the joy of being welcomed home, to a circle of love. Had he ever realised how loved he was? Given his actions, probably not. It is the shock of his degradation which brings the son to his senses. So we see good being brought out of bad, joy out of despair, hope out of hopelessness, suffering to resurrection.

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+