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 November 2025 ✠ First Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:30am.

PUBLIC ROSARY: Every Wednesday 10am. All are welcome.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am - 5pm. Saturday 9:30am-6:30pm. Sunday 8am-1pm

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 A*

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg. 82
Preface I OF ADVENT: THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST pg. 65

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

22/23 November 2025

Envelopes	£ 166.00
Loose	£ 384.51
Total	**£ 550.51**

Standing Orders & Contactless
October 2025: £2,636 & Contactless: £422.76

Church Cleaning TEAM 4: Umelia and Juvenile Joao (Saturday)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays & Thursdays.

PARISH NOTICES

New Mass Books: From this weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, we will be using the new books. The text of the readings is changed to the English Standard Version – ESV.

Confirmation 2025–26: Teenagers in Years 9 & 10 are invited to join the Confirmation course signing via the Parish Website or please scan 'QR Code'. Registration will close on 15th December 2025. Please keep an eye on the Parish Newsletter for updates. The programme will begin in January 2026.

Christmas Flower collection is next weekend, 6/7 Dec.

Ministers Christmas Rota will be available for signing in the Church porch from next weekend, 6/7 Dec.

Walk with Me: *A Journey of Prayer* Advent Jubilee 2025 are available in the Church Porch for £1.50. Please place your donations in the basket provided or pay via contactless – REPOSITORY OPTION

Signing of Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) for Reception School: Parents are invited to book an appointment with Fr Christian via the Parish website or SCAN this QR code. The closing date for on-time applications to Primary schools is 15 January 2026.

First Holy Communion 2025–26: Next session Sunday 30th November, 10:30am-11:20am in the Loyola Centre.

Mass Attendance card:

- Stickers are issued to FHC children before Mass on Saturdays and Sundays. The child should be present for Mass with his/her card.
- Sticker will not be issued if your child is not present for Mass, has forgotten to bring the card to Mass, has missed to attend Mass or collect sticker.
- Please make sure that the Attendance Card has the Child's full name, this will help the Stewards to identify the card and in case its lost. If you find a lost card, please drop it into the Rectory letter box or give it to Fr Christian or the Stewards.

Table Tennis Club: The Men's Over-70s Table Tennis Club is looking for new members. We meet most Thursday evenings from 8–10 pm in the Manning Room behind the church. It's a relaxed, light-hearted session, and new players are very welcome. For more information, call John on 07956 837777.

Missio 2026 Calendars are available in the church porch—please take one!

If you've requested a **Red Box** but haven't returned your form, please give it to Vince Grayson at the 6pm Mass or drop it through the *Rectory letterbox*. Request forms are also available in the Church porch for anyone wishing to support Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission through the Red Box scheme. More information, please scan the QR code.

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 scan the QR code.

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

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH: If you would like to support the parish by **Standing Order**, please complete the Parish Gift Aid & Standing Order Form available in the Church Porch. You can also **donate online** by scanning the QR code. **Contactless Giving**: The device is located in the porch to the right as you enter. Simply select a set amount or tap 'Other' to enter your preferred donation. If you are registered for Gift Aid, please use the same card linked to your Gift Aid. Donations made via the contactless device go directly to the parish account as Offertory Collection. For any queries, email: sunburyonthamesbk@rcdow.org.uk

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*

Sunday Tea/Coffee Morning: Every Sunday after 9:30am Mass in the Manning Room. All are welcome.

Knit & Knatter: *Come and Join Us!* We'd love to welcome more people to our friendly group. You don't need to know how to knit or crochet, just come along, enjoy the company, and learn at your own pace. Thank you for the wonderful donations of wool and needles. Feel free to bring a friend! Join us on Monday, 10–12 noon, in the Manning Room. Questions? Call Helen on 07879 415578.

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 2025-26: 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

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

SVP Vinnie Pack Project: The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: UK PRAYS will attend Evensong at 3.30pm on Sunday, 7th December in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace. A Rosary of Reparation will be prayed silently during the service, placing the UK under the protection of Our Lady. For free entry, go to the Security Office to be escorted in. We are grateful to the chaplain for his warm welcome.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding *a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection* on Saturday 20th December 2025 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm at St Walburga Catholic Church, 81 Kirkgate, Shipley, Bradford BD18 3LU. The Reflection will include the Holy Rosary, teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Today is the first day of the Advent season, our time of expectant spiritual preparation for the great feast of our Lord's Incarnation at Christmas.
During this time, we will reflect in a particular way upon the prophecies of Isaiah. The Book of the Prophet Isaiah has for so many centuries been known as the fifth gospel.
St Jerome, the great early monk and scholar of the profoundest mysteries of scripture described the great prophet as "the first gospel writer" because when one reads the words of Isaiah it seems "that it is being spoken not only by a prophet, but by a gospel writer. For thus all the mysteries of Christ and the Church are pursued to clarity, so that you would not think them to be prophesied of the future, but that they covered the history of things past."
That our blessed Lord Himself consciously acted out, during his early ministry, the signs foretold by Isaiah is made abundantly clear by the beginning of his public ministry. In his Gospel St Luke describes our Lord's first public act as reading from the prophecies of Isaiah before bluntly saying "today this scripture is being fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).
But why did God only reveal Himself in prophecies? One thing we are all aware of is our own human weakness. That we have many imperfections, and while God has given us true intelligence and a capacity to understand the profoundest mysteries of the universe, we also know that the mysteries of God Himself and of the dark, obscure reality of evil in our world are things we cannot understand without the help of God. This all being so, God needed to prepare the ground, as it were, for his coming. He needed to form a people who His son could live among and who were prepared to understand, even if only faintly, the actions he was to undertake.
Thus, the story of salvation is slowly unfolded over the course of the Old Testament. Each action of God, each episode in the formation of the ancient people of Israel and each prophecy they were given would reveal a little more, drawing them on towards that moment when the final, total revelation would happen in Christ. That total revelation is in Christ because Christ is the Word of God. He is, in Himself, the totality of what God is for us.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Eileen Sargent, Derek Hook, Daniel Fitzgerald, Cynthia Souza, Peter O'Leary, Ted Edgar, Kathleen Mansell.

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