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

NEWSLETTER

7th December 2025 ✠ Second 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. 85
Preface I OF ADVENT: THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST pg. 65

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

29/30 November 2025

Envelopes	£ 428.95
Loose	£ 417.73
Total	**£ 845.58**

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

Church Cleaning TEAM 5: S & C Rodrigues (Saturday)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays and Tuesdays.

PARISH NOTICES

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.

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. Bookings close on Thursday, 11th December. The closing date for on-time applications is 15th January 2026.

CHRISTMAS 2025

Saturday 20th December *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
10:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 21st December
9:30am and 11:30am Masses

Monday 22nd December & Tuesday 23rd December
9:30am Mass

Wednesday 24th December *Christmas Eve*
6pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
11:30pm Christmas Midnight Mass



Thursday 25th December *Christmas Day*
10:30am Mass
Church closes after Mass

Friday 26th December *St Stephen's Day*
9:30am Mass

Saturday 27th December *Holy Family Sunday*
6pm Vigil Mass
NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions

Sunday 28th December
9:30am and 11:30am Masses

Monday 29th December to Friday 2nd January
Church CLOSED

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and New year 2026! Fr Christian Parish Office is CLOSED from 24th Dec 2025 – 2nd Jan 2026

- **Christmas Flower collection** is TODAY!
- **Ministers Christmas Rota** is available for signing in the Church porch.
- **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.

St Ignatius 100 Club: It's the 100Club Christmas Draw TODAY after the 9.30am Mass in the Manning Room. Come along and enjoy the fun of the draw where over £500 will be given out in Prizes and Fr Christian will be presented with a whopping cheque. Come and join us, there will be cake and celebrations!

Repository: The Repository will be open before and after all Masses this weekend. There is plenty of stock that is Advent/Christmas themed including calendars, crib sets and cards. There are also diaries for 2026. Please call by and take a look. Card payments are now accepted.

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!* Monday, 10am to 12noon, in the Manning Room. Whether you knit, crochet, or are just curious, enjoy friendly company, learn at your own pace, and bring a friend! Questions? Call Helen on 07879 415578.

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. Info: John on 07563 761431.

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, hand it to Vince Grayson at the 6pm Mass or drop it in the Rectory letterbox. Forms are also in the porch for anyone wishing to support Missio, the Pope's charity.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

First Holy Communion 2025–26: Next session Sunday 7th December, 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.

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.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

This coming week, on Monday, we shall celebrate one of the greatest feasts of Our Lady, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is not to be confused with the Virgin Birth. The Immaculate Conception, rather, means that Our Lady was born with a singular grace, an incomprehensible gift which no others, save Our Lord Himself, can boast. She was born free from the stain of Original Sin. She was born free from that primaeval division from perfection, from the Good God, which binds all humanity and is why we are a people who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. She was saved by the sacrifice of her divine Son before she even bore Him.

This had been planned by God from the beginning. Man, as a free creature, could and would fall away from God, but God would go one further than merely starting again with a perfect, unblemished creation. He would draw goodness out of evil. He would enter into this fallen world and remake it from within with the sweet yet cutting power of his Word and the gentle but uncontrollable fire of His Holy Spirit. For "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them." It would be quite beneath God to leave His image to the power of sin and death. Hence, even in that first moment of sin, God rounds on the serpent who tempted Eve, saying "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and your seed and her seed. She shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for her heel."

Later there are further glimpses of this future. Solomon sings a prophecy in his Song of Songs, "Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?" The prophet Isaiah glimpses Our Lady's virginity. "The Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." Again, Solomon sings in prophecy, "Thou art all beautiful, O my love, and there is no stain in thee."

But why? Why did God choose to send this grace to Our Lady? To put it into a simple sentence, it was because it was fitting. As the tradition has it in the Latin, "decuit, potuit, ergo fecit" "It was fitting, God could do it, and so God did do it." Often, we can think that God must somehow work like some sort of cosmic computer, that there must be a logical necessity behind all His actions. No doubt God always acts with good reason he is certainly never contrary to reason but God constantly acts in a way which accomplishes His design in the most fitting and appropriate way. Our Lady is a daughter of Eve, a sister to us all, but she is also mother through her motherhood of the first man of the new humanity, the perfect humanity without sin and death, Jesus Christ. The ancient and the new are bound up in a single person, Our Lady Immaculate.

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+