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

14th December 2025 ✠ Third 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. 88
Preface II OF ADVENT: THE TWOFOLD EXPECTION OF CHRIST pg. 66

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

6/7 December 2025

Envelopes	£ 151.10
Loose	£ 479.69
Total	**£ 630.79**

Church Cleaning TEAM 6: J Rodrigues, C Lobo & A Vadakathara (Wednesday)

Lavina will not be available on Mondays and Tuesdays. For queries, Parish: sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk,
Manning Room: sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk.
Bookkeeping (Luciana): sunburyonthamesbk@rcdow.org.uk

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: If you have missed the online appointments. Please email the Parish Office for an appointment at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk. Please do not panic. 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.

Care for the Blessed Sacrament

Last week a consecrated host was found abandoned on a pew in the church. We do not know whether this happened through misunderstanding, but we all need to work to make sure this doesn't happen again. The Blessed Sacrament is God's most precious gift to us. Our Lord is truly present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, in every consecrated host. For this reason, the greatest reverence and care must always be shown when receiving Holy Communion.

Please note the following:

- Holy Communion must always be consumed immediately upon reception.
- If you receive Holy Communion in the hand, you must consume the host before turning away, so that the minister can see that Communion has been received.

- Ministers of Holy Communion have a duty to ensure that the host is consumed and may need to stop and gently direct someone if this does not happen.
- Holy Communion must be received with clean, uncovered hands. Gloves should not be worn.
- If you are carrying a child or your hands are not free, please receive Holy Communion on the tongue.
- Please be attentive and charitable towards those who may be unfamiliar with these requirements, and help ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is always treated with proper care.

I know that we don't want to get in other people's way so want to be swift, but please do still take a moment to receive with reverence.

REGULAR NOTICES

Parish Registration: If you are new to the parish and would like to register, please scan the QR code.

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.

Funerals: To book a funeral, please contact 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.

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.

Family Rosary and Fish & Chips on the first Friday of each month: The next one will be on Friday 2nd January 2026 – Come and say the Rosary at 6pm in the Church, followed by Fish & Chips. Please place your food order by Wednesday 31st December to Cerys Bow 07884 005 190.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

First Holy Communion 2025–26: Next session Sunday 14th 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

A REFLECTION FROM ST BERNARD ON THE ANNUNCIATION:

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God, we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.

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+