ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Rectory, Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 6QB
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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

21st & 28th December 2025, ✠ 4th Sunday of Advent & The Holy Family

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 Wednesday 31st December
Church CLOSED

Thursday 1st January 2026 *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*
10:30am Mass

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.

Welcome to Our New Archbishop

With gratitude to God and great joy, we welcome Bishop Richard Moth as our new Archbishop, who will be installed on 14 February, succeeding Vincent Cardinal Nichols in the care of our diocese.

Bishop Richard comes to us from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. As Archbishop, he is the successor to the Apostles among us and the father of the diocesan family, called to shepherd God's people in faith and unity. We commend him to the prayers of all the faithful as he prepares to begin his ministry among us.

MASS BOOKS FOR SUNDAY, 21st DECEMBER

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: All Masses are said this Sunday.
Readings and Prayers: pg.90
Preface: II of Advent: THE TWOFOLD EXPECTION OF CHRIST pg. 66

MASS BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

6pm Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: See hymn board.
Readings and Prayers: pg.95
Preface: The Nativity of the Lord I, pg.66
Eucharistic Prayer: The Roman Canon

11:30pm Midnight Mass
Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: See hymn board.
Readings and Prayers: pg.98
Preface: The Nativity of the Lord I, pg.66
Eucharistic Prayer: The Roman Canon

10:30am Mass of Christmas Day
Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: See hymn board.
Readings and Prayers: pg.103
Preface: The Nativity of the Lord I, pg.66
Eucharistic Prayer: The Roman Canon

MASS BOOKS FOR SUNDAY, 28th December

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: All Masses are said this Sunday.
Readings and Prayers: pg.106
Preface: The Nativity of the Lord III, pg.67

PARISH NOTICES

Thank you for your kindness & generosity, we have raised: Stella Maris: £61.50, Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda: £1,103.71, CAFOD: £309.60, World Mission Sunday - Missio: £102.83, Sick & Retired Priest: £550.56, St Ignatius 100Club: £1,365, Christmas Flower: £178.11.

Offertory collection 13/14 December 2025:
Envelopes £ 165.00 Loose £ 407.15 Total £ 572.15

Church Cleaning TEAM 7: Mr and Mrs Kennedy (Saturday) &
TEAM 1: M Leslie & L Escalona (Friday)

CRIB OFFERING: Please support the Catholic Children's Society this Christmas. Place your donation in the church Crib to help vulnerable children and families in need. Gift Aid envelopes

are available or please scan the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!

Confirmation 2025 - 2026: The Confirmation programme begins on Monday, 12 January 2026. More details will be emailed to parents in the New Year. Keep an eye on the parish newsletter for updates.

First Holy Communion 2025 - 2026: Parents, for session dates and important information, please visit the parish website. *Mass Attendance Stickers* will be issued at all weekend Masses.

REGULAR NOTICES

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

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.

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

Knit & Knatter: *Join Us!* Every Monday, 10am - 12noon in the Manning Room. Come along and bring a friend!

Family Rosary and Fish & Chips on the first Friday of each month: The next one will be on Friday 30th January 2026 – Come and say the Rosary at 6pm in the Church, followed by Fish & Chips. Please place your food order by Wednesday 28th January to Cerys Bow 07884 005 190.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Finally, we are approaching Christmas! The period of preparation is coming to an end and we now within those last seven days which lead up to Our Lord's Nativity which are characterised by a move away from a more vague longing towards an active anticipation of the entering of God into His creation, God becoming man for man's salvation. God becoming man so that man might become god.

In that spirit here are presented seven beautiful prayers for us to meditate on over the coming week. To most they are best known through the hymn "O come, o come Immanuel." That hymn's seven verses are loosely based on the seven prayers. These are what are called "The O Antiphons."

Antiphons are little short prayers which top and tail each psalm recited as part of the church's cycle of prayer called the Liturgy of the Hours, or "the Office." They are a series of services made up of sets of psalms, readings and other prayers which all monks, nuns, sisters and priests recite to sanctify the day and to pray for themselves and the whole Church, throughout the day, every day.

The "O Antiphons" are amongst the most ancient prayers of the Church, being at least 1500 years old. They are for the beginning and end of the high point of vespers (evening prayer), which is the recitation of Our Lady's song of praise, the Magnificat. They are called "O" antiphons because they all start with the exclamation "O."

Each begins with a title for the Messiah and refers to the prophecies of Isaiah and carries mystical Old Testament references, while also carrying an element of the New Covent. These two characteristics are put next to each other and a third dimension emerges which serves as a point of meditation when considering the Incarnation.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush,
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Root of Jesse,
standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

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

THANK YOU NOTE TO PARISHIONERS

I would just like to extend an enormous thank you to all the parishioners who have helped out over the Christmas period in so many different ways: organising rotas, singing at the Masses, arranging the flowers, Ministering the Eucharist, reading, Altar serving, cleaning, helping with the Sacristy, Repository and stewarding, parish administration and counters. It has been a difficult Christmas period but I hope that, together, we have managed to bring something of the light of the new born Christ into this winter.

With my prayers, Fr Christian