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

11TH JANUARY 2026 ✠ BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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. 118
Preface: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD pg. 68

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

20/21 December 2025

Envelopes	£ 222.00
Loose	£ 507.31
Total	**£ 729.31**

24/25 December 2025

Envelopes	£ 503.48
Loose	£ 1,669.82
Total	**£ 2,173.30**

	27/28 Dec 2025	3/4 Jan 2026
Envelopes	£ 129.00	£ 178.75
Loose	£ 341.47	£ 401.72
Total	**£ 470.47**	**£ 580.47**

Church Cleaning TEAM 3: C Dos Passos & N Dunu (Saturday)

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

PARISH NOTICES

First Holy Communion 2025–26: Today's session is Sunday 11th January, 10:30am-11:20am in the Loyola Centre.

Confirmation 2026: The Confirmation programme begins on Monday, 12th January, 5pm - 6.30pm in the Manning Room. For further updates, please continue to read the parish Newsletter or visit the parish website.

Crib offering 2025: Thank you for your generous donations, we have raised £169.25

CHILLI & QUIZ NIGHT in aid of HCPT Group 51:

Our annual Quiz, in aid of HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) will be on Saturday 31st January. Teams of up to 6 people, come as part of a team, or we can add you to one.

Tickets: £15. Available at Masses or by contacting Mary: 07737 899487 / group51@hcpt.org.uk

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: *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.

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: 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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

Parish Schools: St Ignatius Catholic Primary School and St Paul's Catholic College (Secondary) are this parish's two Catholic Schools, though some parishioners have children at Catholic secondary schools outside the parish bounds. Both are thriving schools. All Catholics are encouraged to have their children educated in a Catholic context.

Signing of Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP) for Catholic Schools

Important Information for Parents:

1) School Admissions Guidance: Before booking an appointment for the CCP, parents are requested to contact the relevant school office to understand the admissions process. Further information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions

2) Booking an Appointment with the Priest: CCP signing will be done by appointment only via our online booking system**,** available on the Parish website**.** Appointment periods are as follows:

- Secondary Transfer (Year 7): September – October
- Reception Admissions: November – January
- Nursery Admissions: February – April

3) Parish Newsletter: Please continue to check the Parish Newsletter regularly for updates and the release of appointment slots.

4) For Admissions to Year Groups (Years 1 to 6): Please email the Parish Office directly to request an appointment: sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk

EVENTS

Events taking place in the Cathedral during the Week of Prayer:

Tuesday 20th January at 5pm – Westminster Cathedral are hosting the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, to sing Vespers together, in thanksgiving for the recent proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. The preacher will be Archbishop Rowan Williams.

Friday 23rd January at 5pm – St Paul's Cathedral are hosting the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, to sing Evensong together.

Ecumenical Pilgrimage – Friday, 23rd January: James Holland, Diocesan Ecumenical Coordinator, is leading an Ecumenical Pilgrimage on Friday, 23rd January. The pilgrimage will: Depart: Westminster Cathedral at 1:00pm. Visit: A Catholic church in Central London and Temple Church. Finish: St Paul's Cathedral in time for Vespers.For more details, please see the attached poster.

Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat: Friday, 13th March to Sunday, 15th March 2026 at Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London

Led by: Fr Svetozar Kraljević OFM. For more information and to book, please contact: Paul Spencer, pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com or 07710 567183.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. That our Lord should start His public ministry by being baptised may seem a little strange. How can He who is God, who is utterly without sin, be baptised, a sign of repentance and the washing away of sins?

The answer is twofold. Firstly, there is the answer our Lord gives Himself: that He was baptised "to fulfil all righteousness." This refers to a number of things. God had been planning the sacrament of baptism, and revealing prophesies of it, for many centuries. For example, there are the various ritual baths commanded in the law of Moses; and there are the various stories from the Old Testament of lepers being cured and "made clean" by a washing in water. Christ fulfils the prophesies by instituting baptism, most importantly through His death on the cross but also through His sanctification of the water in His own baptism. Here again we see that Christ, as the source of invincible life, is not affected by things like we are. Rather, He affects them. Thus He does not become "ritually unclean" by touching lepers, the lepers become clean instead; He encounters no dead bodies in the whole of scripture which He does not bring back to life, since death cannot abide in His presence; and rather than being washed clean of sin and reborn in the waters, as we are, His entering the waters in His baptism purifies and sanctifies the waters for all time so that it may forever be used in baptism.

The second important thing our Lord is showing in His baptism is related to the first: it is a demonstration of His profound humility, His total self-emptying for us. From the moment our Lord took flesh in the womb of our Blessed Lady He started the process of self-emptying, of putting aside the glory and majesty which have been His from all eternity. This process was to continue throughout His life as He embraced everything which we, as human beings, experience: childhood, adolescence, work, family, sickness, suffering, pain and, in the end, death itself. So, in His baptism, Christ once again empties Himself 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+