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

1st February 2026 ✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASS: Wednesday: 9:30am.

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

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: Wednesday: 8am - 5pm. Saturday 9:30am-6:30pm. Sunday 8am-1pm

NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & CONFESSION

MASS BOOK THIS SUNDAY *Year A*

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg. 130
Preface IV: THE HISTORY OF SALVATION, pg.69

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

	24/25 January 2025
Envelopes	£ 180.00
Loose	£ 430.92
Total	**£ 610.92**

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

Parish office is closed from 2nd to 13th February 2026.
Parish queries:sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk,
ManningRoom:sunburyparishcentres@rcdow.org.uk.
Bookkeeping (Luciana): sunburyonthamesbk@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025–26: The *next* session is on Sunday 8th February, 10:30am-11:20am.

CONFIRMATION 2026: The *next* session is on Monday, 23rd February, 5pm - 6.30pm in the Manning Room.

St Ignatius 100 Club: It's the February 100 Club draw today. Come and join us for a cuppa and a slice of cake after the 9.30am Mass in the Manning Room for the fun of the draw.

Save the Date – Irish Night | 21st February: Our next parish social event will be an Irish Night, taking place on Saturday, 21st February, at Sunbury Cricket Club. Join us for a fun-filled evening of music, singing, dancing, and great food! More details coming soon, watch this space. For enquiries, please contact Rose (07783 799895) or Mary (07737 899487).

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord *(February 2nd)*



My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law You revealed to Moses. In that offering, our souls are purified and we are offered to Your Father with You.

I thank You for the gift of salvation and pray that my soul will always radiate Your light as You dwell within me.

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: We took 7 blankets and 15 beanie hats to Knit for Peace (a London Homeless charity) earlier this week. They were gratefully received and thanks to all our knitters! If anyone has any spare wool lying around at home we would be very happy to make use of it. Please and Thank you. We meet every Monday in The Manning Room 10-12 noon, all are welcome!

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

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

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

The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball on *St Valentine's Day*, Saturday 14th February, 6pm in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £135 each or a table of ten for £1,300. Contact: GCNBall@gmail.com or 07795205117

Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat: Friday, 13th March to Sunday, 15th March 2026 at Kairos Centre, London. Led by: Fr Svetozar Kraljević OFM. To book, please contact: Paul Spencer, pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com or 07710 567183.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Today we hear Our Lord teach us what are traditionally called the Beatitudes. They are absolutely central. This is because the teaching contained in the Beatitudes contains, in many ways, a summation of the Christian life – the life which Almighty God has made us for and which will unfailingly bring us to union with God in heaven.

In the translation we have here the word "happy" is used repeatedly. I can see why the translator decided to do that, because the original word does mean happy. But it also means much more than that. It is not mere happiness, as in feeling upbeat and so on. For one thing, it seems absurd to suggest that the persecuted, or mourners are "happy" in the normal sense. I think that the more old fashioned translation of "blessed" is closer to what Our Lord really means here. Blessed, in this sense, means one who is blessed by God and has "beatitude". Beatitude is something much more profound than normal happiness. I means a true inner peace, a true feeling of contentment and joy arising from a good life, filled with a love for God and our neighbour. The ancient world was very preoccupied with beatitude. They all wanted it. Some sought it in becoming great philosophers, or great merchants, or great warriors and conquerors. Our Lord sees all that and says "no." That is not the way to true happiness, to beatitude. True happiness, beatitude, is found in living according to the wisdom which Christ brought us.

Sadly I cannot go through all the beatitudes in a short reflection like this, so I will simply take three.

Firstly we are told: blessed are the poor in spirit. This seems peculiar to us today, and it would have then. We are so often told about the importance of pride. In one sense pride can be a good thing – we should certainly love ourselves as beloved children of God, he loves us and we should love ourselves. But pride can also be the greatest and deadliest of all the sins. It was pride which caused the fall of humanity. God wants us to be participators in the divine nature, he wants to make us gods, but we cannot do this ourselves. If we refuse to recognise our limitations and see that we are imperfect, then he cannot make us that way. Indeed, our weaknesses will only get worse as we falsely start to see them as strengths. The poor in spirit are those who are humble before God, recognise their need for his grace and so let themselves be transformed by it.

Blessed are the meek. Once we have learned humility then we must learn how to govern our hearts and actions and so become meek. Our reason must be above our base passions. Passions are not bad in themselves, there is a time and a place to be angry, for example, but that emotion must not take over. If we allow it to take over then we become nothing more than an enraged beast, and can do terrible things.

Blessed are they who mourn. Again this follows naturally. The humble and meek are open to start seeing the horror of sin for what it is. How God sees sin, how sin disfigures creation and our own nature. We can see our own sins and weep over how ungrateful we have been to God, and see the sins of the world with fresh eyes. Our Lord prayed through tears so often because, as true God and true Man, he could see and feel in himself the horror of sin.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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

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