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

8th March 2026 ✠ Third Sunday in Lent

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 9:55am

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. 158
Preface: THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, pg.72

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

28/ 1 March 2026

Envelopes	£ 224.30
Loose	£ 528.13
Total	**£ 752.43**

Standing Orders & Contactless
January 2026: £2,631 & £534.50

Church Cleaning TEAM 4: Umelia and Juvenile Joao (Saturday)

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

PARISH NOTICES

St Ignatius 100 Club: It's the March 100 Club Draw TODAY! Please join us in the Manning Room after Mass for the fun of the draw. There's Tea, Coffee and Cake!! Good Luck to all our members.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025–26: The *next* session will be held on Sunday 15th March, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre.

CAKES, EASTER TREATS & VASES SALE to be held on Mother's Day, Sunday 15th March after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses. Don't forget to bring your cash and if you can bake a cake for us to sell that would be marvellous. All proceeds will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Stations of the Cross and Fish & Chips Supper: Join us for a Lenten evening of reflection and fellowship! 20th March, 6pm at St. Ignatius Church for *Stations of the Cross* followed by a fish & chips supper in the Manning Room**.** Please place your food order by Wednesday 18th March to Cerys Bow 07884 005 190. All parishioners are welcome!

Irish Night | 21st March: Our next parish social event will be an Irish Night, taking place on Saturday, 21st March, at Sunbury Cricket Club. Join us for a fun-filled evening of music, singing, dancing, and great food! For more details, please see the poster in the Church porch. Profits will be going to HCPT 51 Children to Lourdes & CRUSE Bereavement Support. For tickets, please call Rose 07783 799895 or Liz 07794 036608 or email Mary at 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: Huge thanks to all those who have donated wool to our knitting project, we really appreciate it. If you have spare wool in your house we will gladly put it to great use. If you enjoy knitting and want to join our thriving bunch of Knitters and Crocheters we have remote knitters as well as our friendly bunch who meet on Monday mornings 10am - 12noon in the Manning Room. All are welcome.

Missio: 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.

EVENTS

Thank you from CAFOD: We have raised **£323.** Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day. Your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan to grow food despite drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent through fasting, prayer and giving. More at *cafod.org.uk/thankyou.*

Young Adults LENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 21st March 2026 10am – 6pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, W8 5HH Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • mass and social time. Register by scanning QR code or email rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

Lenten Appeal 2026: *"Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love."* Our annual Lenten Appeal across the Diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through **Education, Youth & Evangelisation, and Marriage & Family Life,** the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith, and strengthens families within our parishes. Through Social Action, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone. Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. To donate today please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal. Alternatively, envelopes are available in church. Thank you for your support and for helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

Scan Me

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm.
The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the Parish Office at sunburyonthames@rcdow.org.uk with the following details: husband and wife's full names, wedding date, full postal address and email or telephone number *by Monday 20th April 2026.*

'Learning to Pray this Lent': Would you like to grow in confidence and consistency in daily prayer? Our Learn to Pray course offers practical guidance to deepen your relationship with Jesus. Journey with others as you build simple, sustainable habits of prayer. All are welcome. This is series is particularly good for new Catholics and those rekindling their faith.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

The cycle of readings for Lent is one of the most ancient parts of our Lectionary. In the early church, as is often the case today, Lent is a time of intense preparation for the catechumens (those preparing for baptism) to ready themselves for their reception into the Church at Easter. This story about the Samaritan woman has always been part of that.
Why? Because this passage, though seemly obscure, is filled with rich imagery about redemption, about being taken from among those who have strayed and are rejected and are made righteous through water and the Holy Spirit.
The Samaritan woman, as Samaritans always do in the gospels, represents one who has been rejected on account of her sins. But she also corresponds to a great many women throughout the scriptures who find love and a husband while visiting a well. If we think of the Old Testament figures of Jacob and Moses, for example, we see that they meet and court their wives by a well. So, she is both a sinful woman, and also a woman who is associated with the greatest of the ancient matriarchs.
This duality continues in what she says. She is sarcastic with our Lord, she tries to defend her sects heretical views about where the temple should be, and she attempts to lie about her past relationships. But she also recognises our Lord as who He really is. She says that He is a "prophet." For Samaritans there was only one prophet, who was to be the Messiah, so she is truly recognising who he is. Finally, she goes on from her meeting with our Lord to become a missionary to her people, and to understand that in Christ we not only meet salvation, but the fullest revelation of our deepest selves, beloved creatures of God ("he told me all I have ever done." The imagery, therefore, is of one who is rejected, and who has strayed in so many ways, but who is loved and courted anyway. Who is invited by Christ into intimate communion.
The parallels with baptism are fairly clear at this point. We are not called to our new life in Christ as people who deserve it, as people who are already good and holy. We are called from where we are, wherever we are, whoever we are and whatever we have done. We might even find that difficult and fight back against it, as the woman does, but the power of grace can break our hearts of stone if we sit with our Lord in intimate prayer, if we let Him truly speak.

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+