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

22ND March 2026 ✠ Fifth 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. 170
Preface: LAZARUS, pg.72

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

14/15 March 2026

Envelopes	£ 149.41
Loose	£ 507.64
Total	**£ 657.05**

Church Cleaning TEAM 7: Mr and Mrs Kennedy (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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025–26: The session will be held on Sunday 22nd March, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre.

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

CAKES, EASTER TREATS & VASES SALE: HUGE THANKS to everyone who brought and bought delicious cakes, Easter treats and vases at the sale last weekend. We raised a massive **£640**, the money will go a long way supporting teenagers and young people with cancer, how's that for wonderful news?

Weekly Donation Envelopes (2026–2027):

Envelopes starting from 12th April are available for collection in the Church or from the Parish Office.

- Check your box number, name, and postcode.
- Use the new mauve/purple envelopes from 12th April.
- Please recycle old envelopes.

Thank you for your support!

HOLY WEEK 2026

Easter Flower Collection: TODAY after all Masses.

Ministers of Word & Eucharist: Please write your name on the sheet available in the Church Porch for the Triduum. Please opt for one service, allowing other ministers a chance to serve.

Altar Servers: Please sign up for the liturgies you will be present for on the sheet in the Sacristy.

Confessions: on Saturday 28th March, 10:30am to 12noon in the Church.

Good Friday: Day of fast and Abstinence. There will be a retiring Collection for the Holy Places.

Stations & Veneration of the Cross for Children on Good Friday morning at 10am, in the Church aimed at children in key stage 1 and below.

Blessing of Easter Food Baskets will take place on Holy Saturday, 4th April, at 10am in the church.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026: Details of all services and events are available on the parish website and on the poster at the back of the church.

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

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.

Ministers of the Word & Eucharist – Rota Update: The next rota is available in the Church Porch and online on the Parish website - *Parish Groups*.

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.

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

Lenten Appeal 2026: The collection will take place on the *weekend of 28/29 March* after all Masses. 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. 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.

Divine Mercy Sunday 2026: Celebrations at St Andrews Church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on 12 April 2026 at 2:30 pm. The service will be led by Mgr Sean Healy and will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate this glorious feast. Please call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information

'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.

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.*

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

While it is a difficult matter, I feel that I must speak to you all about a profoundly shocking piece of legislation which has passed through Parliament this week. Last Wednesday, a bill passed which will make it legal for a woman to perform an abortion on herself, without any safeguards, up until the child she is carrying is born.

We can have little doubt that children, some perhaps days from birth, will lose their lives as a result of this. These are children close to being born, on the very threshold of life outside the womb. This risks not only the loss of their lives, but also serious harm to women, and removes an important safeguard that may protect the vulnerable from coercion.

I understand that opinions in this country are divided on the issue of whether the right to life for all people should be respected from conception until natural death or not. We, as Catholics, have a very clear and coherent view of the matter, but are yet to convince a solid majority of our fellow citizens of it. I understand that many people in this parish will have been affected by abortion personally and that it is, therefore, understandably a very emotive issue. This legislation, however, goes well beyond those issues and sensitivities. It is extreme, by any standards, and it is supported by only a tiny minority of the population. Indeed, some 60% of British people would like to see the term limit for abortions actually reduced.

Despite this legislation being so far beyond what is acceptable to the vast majority of our people, it passed through the Commons to applause.

It is a tragic testimony to the power of the abortion lobby, and to the reprehensible detachment of much of our political class from mainstream Britain.

I should note that, to his credit, our own local MP did vote against this legislation.

What are we to do? First, as always, we must pray. Secondly, we must work to create a society where women who find themselves in trouble with a pregnancy are given the care and support they need to bring their child to term and care for him or her thereafter. In such a society, a humane and loving society, we can see the abolition of human abortion, and its consignment to history.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:
Daniel Fitzgerald, Peter O'Leary, Ted Edgar, Kathleen Mansell, John Shanley, John Hayward, Kathleen Connolly.
+Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen+