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

12TH JULY 2026 ✠ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 9:30am.
No Mass on Friday.

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

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8am - 5pm. Friday: 10am - 5pm. Saturday 9:30am - 6:30pm. Sunday 8am-1pm

NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT OR CONFESSION

MASS BOOK THIS SUNDAY *Year A*

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg. 102
Preface V: CREATION, pg. 67

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

	4/5 July
Envelopes	£ 200.20
Loose	£ 502.99
Total	**£ 703.19**

Church Cleaning TEAM 1: M Leslie, L Escalona, C Sison & E Addal (Friday)

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

PARISH NOTICES

SEA SUNDAY – Seafarers need you:

SCAN TO DONATE

Sea Sunday is TODAY. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

Missio: We are now able to accept foreign currency donations. If you have any unwanted foreign notes or coins at home, even low-value or withdrawn currency such as Deutschmarks or French francs, please consider donating them to Missio. Old UK coins and banknotes are also welcome. Please package donations securely and place them through The Rectory letterbox clearly marked "Missio". If collection is required, please leave a note for Vince Grayson.

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 the 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.

Sunday Tea/Coffee Morning: Every Sunday after 9:30am Mass 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.

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

Bannneux ND GB Pilgrimages 2026: Invite you to join our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium, a major Catholic Marian pilgrimage site. It marks the spot where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eight times between January 15 and March 2, 1933, to an 11-year-old girl, Mariette Beco, calling herself the "Virgin of the Poor". During the visions, Mary indicated a stream, stating, "This spring is reserved for all nations to relieve the sick". The shrine was officially approved by the Roman Catholic Church in 1949 and was famously visited by Pope John Paul II in 1985. We will be travelling by luxury coach on the 12 August and returning on the 18 August. A full program of daily Holy Mass, Rosary, Talks, Divine Mercy devotions is available and a day trip to Beauraing, another Marian apparition site is included in the price. Hotel and full board included. Pls call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

What Kind of Soil Are We?

The parable of the sower is so familiar that we may be tempted to listen to it without allowing it to disturb us. We can easily imagine the different soils as descriptions of other people: those who have rejected the faith, those who have fallen away, or those who are too preoccupied with worldly things. Yet Our Lord addresses the parable to each one of us. The parables are like mirrors. The question is whether we shall be hard soil or good earth for the word of God.

The seed itself is always good. It is the word of God, full of divine truth and life. The Sower is Christ, who scatters it with extraordinary generosity. He speaks to everyone. The seed that fails does not fail because the Sower has been ungenerous, nor because his word lacks power. It fails because of the ground which receives it.

The path represents the heart which has become hard and unresponsive. God's word is heard, but it never penetrates beneath the surface. The rocky ground receives the word eagerly, perhaps with real emotion and enthusiasm, but there is no depth. Faith has not been rooted in prayer, the sacraments, sound teaching and a settled determination to persevere. When faith becomes difficult or costly, it quickly withers.

The thorny ground is perhaps the most uncomfortable of all. These people have not rejected God's word. It has begun to grow within them. Yet it is gradually choked by "the worries of this world and the lure of riches". There is always some other concern demanding attention, some possession to pursue, some anxiety to indulge, or some task which seems more urgent than prayer. Nothing openly attacks the faith. It is simply crowded out.

This also helps us to understand why Jesus speaks in parables. He is not deliberately refusing his grace to those who sincerely seek him. The prophet Isaiah says that the people themselves have shut their eyes. The person who listens humbly is drawn further into the mystery of the Kingdom. The person who has already decided not to listen hears only a story. God's word is offered, but it cannot bear fruit in a heart which refuses to receive it.

Nevertheless, these soils are not fixed or unchangeable. A rocky heart can become rich soil, a well-trodden path can be cultivated, and thorns can be uprooted. This is why Christ continues to sow. No heart is beyond the transforming power of his grace.

Good soil is not merely the person who hears and agrees. It is the person who "hears the word and understands it", and whose life is therefore changed. Words are not enough. Deeds are required. Some produce thirtyfold, some sixtyfold and some a hundredfold. We are not all called to produce the same visible results, but every Christian is called to bear some real fruit in holiness, charity, patience, forgiveness and fidelity.

Whenever we hear the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass, the divine Sower is sowing once again. We might therefore ask ourselves: What word has God placed before me today? What would it mean actually to obey it? What stone must be removed, what thorn uprooted, and what part of my heart still needs to be broken open?

We should not be discouraged by what we discover. Even our preparation to receive grace is already the work of grace within us. We need only ask the Lord to cultivate the soil of our hearts, so that his word may take root there and bear the harvest for which it was sown.

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, Pat Brown.

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