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

29TH NOVEMBER 2026 ✠ First Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:30am. *Friday abstinence*.

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 B*

Order of Mass: pg.7
Hymns: see hymn board
Reading and Prayers: pg. 82
Preface I: THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST pg. 65

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donation

Collection	**21/22 Nov**
Envelopes	£ 146.00
Loose	£ 496.07
Total	**£ 642.07**

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

*Please Note: **Lavina** will not be available on Mondays and Tuesdays.*
*For bookkeeping enquiries, **Luciana**: sunburyonthamesbk@rcdow.org.uk*

PARISH NOTICES

Confirmation 2027: Teenagers in Years 9 & 10 are invited to join the Confirmation course by registering via the Parish Website or please scan 'QR Code'. Please keep an eye on the Parish Newsletter for updates. The programme will begin in January 2027.

New Mass Books: From this weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, we will be using the new books.

Walk with Me: *A Journey of Prayer Advent 2026 booklets* are available in the Church Porch for £1.50. Please place your donations in the basket provided or pay via contactless – REPOSITORY OPTION.

A Reminder About Holy Communion

As we welcome a number of families attending Mass while preparing for First Holy Communion, the parish would like to gently remind everyone that the Host should be consumed immediately by the person receiving Holy Communion and should never be given to another person, including a child.
Children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion are very welcome to come forward with their parents for a blessing.
Thank you for helping to preserve the reverence and respect due to the Blessed Sacrament.

Repository: The Repository will be open before and after all Masses this weekend. Items associated with Advent and Christmas are in stock as well as religiously-themed Christmas cards. Please call by and take a look. Card payments accepted.

CHRISTMAS GOODS TODAY after 9.30am Mass. Come along and support your parish we have beautiful hand knitted Christmas decorations and other charming gifts. There are delicious cakes including Christmas cakes, cookies and gingerbread men. It's your last chance to buy raffle tickets for 8 amazing hampers and 2 adorable wooden stables with knitted figures. You can't miss us we're outside!

Family Rosary and Fish & Chips on the first Friday of each month: Friday 4th December – Come and say the Rosary at 6pm in the Church, followed by Fish & Chips. Please place your food order by *Wednesday 2nd Dec* to Cerys Bow 07884 005 190

Christmas Flowers Collection: There will be a collection for Christmas Flowers next weekend, 5th/6th December. Your donations will help decorate our church beautifully for the Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026-27:

- *Next session:* Sunday 6th December, 10:30am-11:20am, Loyola Centre.
- *Session Dates:* Available on the parish website. First Confession date has changed.
- *Mass Attendance Card:* Please carry you AC to Mass every weekend to collect your sticker. See page 2 for details.
- *Queries:* Email: sunburyonthames@rcdow.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 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.

Knit & Knatter: Please feel free to join us on Monday mornings from 10am - 12noon in the Manning Room for a relaxed and friendly Knit & Knatter, you will be made most welcome.

Missio – Foreign Currency & Red Boxes: All foreign notes and coins, including withdrawn currencies, are welcome. Please donate any unwanted foreign money to *Missio* by securely packaging it, marking it *"Missio"* and dropping it into the Parish Office. **To *request a Red Box*,** please complete a form at the back of the church and place it in the Rectory letter box.

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 2026-27: 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.

First Holy Communion - 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 Ushers 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 Ushers.

EVENTS

Divine Mercy Ministries Jubilee Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Bedford 12 Dec 2026 Westminster Diocese: Divine Mercy Ministries UK is celebrating the Holy Father's proclamation of the *"Year of Our Lady of Guadalupe"*, (12 October 2026 to 12 October 2027). We are going to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, UK, at the RC Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph, 2 Brereton Rd, Bedford MK40 1HU on OLOG Feast Day Saturday 12 December 2026 from 11am to 4pm. This miraculous image is a stunning image of Our Lady who appeared in Mexico City in the 1500's to St Juan Diego. There will be Adoration, Rosary for Peace, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Testimonies and Holy Mass. Coaches from Slough and Ealing. Pls join us to honour OLOG in this special year! Call Millie on 07957594646 to book your seat or for more info

Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral: On Thursday 3 December, at 6.30pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Chris Trott, the former Ambassador at Holy See, will give *a talk entitled: 'Serving His Majesty in the Holy See – 5 years in Rome'* Tickets, £10, including refreshments. Our popular *Carols by Candlelight* returns this Advent, on Monday 7 December. The evening will begin at 6.30pm in Cathedral Hall, before we move to the Lady Chapel for carols, followed by festive refreshments back in the Hall. Tickets are £30, please join us. For tickets, please scan the QR code or email friends@rcdow.org.uk.

On Friday 4 December at 7.30 pm the *Orion Symphony Orchestra* will perform Handel's Messiah at St James's Spanish Place, London W1U 3QY Tickets from £20 (concessions £10) from orionorchestra.org.uk

FR CHRISTIAN WRITES

Today is the first day of the Advent season, our time of expectant spiritual preparation for the great feast of our Lord's Incarnation at Christmas.

During this time, we will reflect in a particular way upon the prophecies of Isaiah. The Book of the Prophet Isaiah has for so many centuries been known as the fifth gospel.

St Jerome, the great early monk and scholar of the profoundest mysteries of Scripture, described the great prophet as "the first gospel writer" because when one reads the words of Isaiah it seems "that it is being spoken not only by a prophet, but by a gospel writer. For thus all the mysteries of Christ and the Church are pursued to clarity, so that you would not think them to be prophesied of the future, but that they covered the history of things past."

That our blessed Lord Himself consciously acted out, during His early ministry, the signs foretold by Isaiah is made abundantly clear by the beginning of His public ministry. In his Gospel, St Luke describes one of our Lord's first public acts as reading from the prophecies of Isaiah before bluntly saying, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

But why did God reveal Himself so gradually? One thing we are all aware of is our own human weakness. We have many imperfections, and while God has given us true intelligence and a capacity to understand the profoundest mysteries of the universe, we also know that the mysteries of God Himself and of the dark, obscure reality of evil in our world are things we cannot understand without the help of God. This all being so, God chose to prepare the ground, as it were, for His coming. He formed a people among whom His Son could live and who were prepared to understand, even if only faintly, the actions He was to undertake.

Thus, the story of salvation is slowly unfolded over the course of the Old Testament. Each action of God, each episode in the formation of the ancient people of Israel and each prophecy they were given would reveal a little more, drawing them on towards that moment when the final, total revelation would happen in Christ. That total revelation is in Christ because Christ is the Word of God. In Him, God has revealed Himself to us fully and definitively.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for our recently departed parishioners:

Ted Edgar, Kathleen Connolly, Bridget Stenning, Thérèse Jones, Claudia Balesteiro, Anthony Cooper.

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