



# Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

[www.rcshepherdsbush.org](http://www.rcshepherdsbush.org)



**22 March 2020**

## Mass Times:

### Sunday Masses

6.00 pm (Saturday)

9.15, 11.00 & 12.30

### Weekday Masses

Mon. Tues., Fri & Sat.:

9.30 am

Wed.: 7.00 am

Thurs: 7.00 pm

### Holy Days of Obligation

Mass: 9.30 am & 8.00 pm

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sat 10.00-10.45 am

### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

First Saturday: 8.45 am

### Legion of Mary

Every Friday after the 9.30 am Mass.

### Rosary

After daily Mass during the week

### Confessions

Sat 10.15-10.45 am,

5.15-5.45 pm

or by request

### Baptism

See Parish Priest

Preparation obligatory

### Marriage

See Parish Priest

Six months' notice required

Preparation obligatory

**Last week's collection**

**£ 653.65**

**Cardinal's Lenten**

**Appeal**

**£304.00**

**Thank-you**

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Daniel O'Brien**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

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## Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare) – Year A



**Fr. Mark writes:** What should I be doing in these unsettling times is a question many of us are asking. When we reflect, we know the answer. We trust God. That is not just a pious saying. If we remain close to Him, whatever happens, He will not let us down. Also, by putting our faith into practice. It is easy to be a Catholic when all is going well. Faith is to be lived at all times. Pray in the home and with the family. We must be a beacon of hope to those around us. Do not spread panic or gloom. With God's help, we will come through this together. Be people of charity. That affects how we behave in the supermarket queue and keeping a constant watch

as to how we can help our neighbour in need. We did not choose these circumstances, but we can choose how we react to them. Today is *Laetare* Sunday, which the Church has always kept as a joyful reminder that Lent is not for ever. Easter lies ahead.

### Mother's Day

Extraordinary times, but we should not forget the huge debt of gratitude we owe to our mothers, living and deceased, for the gifts of life, love and faith. Happy Mother's Day!

### Pat Byrne, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pat Byrne, whose burial service is this week.

### Parish Groups

All parish groups, activities and meetings, including Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes, are suspended until further notice.

### Communication

It is more important than ever to maintain contact with one another. Do pick up the phone regularly to the elderly and the self-isolating. Check how they are, chat with them and offer to pray with them. Newsletters and homilies will be published on the Website. Please run off and deliver copies to those unable to access it in this way. With the newsletter this week, you will find a letter from the Bishops' Conference, the Cardinal's Pastoral Letter and a parish statement. Please see also the video recording made by the Cardinal at <https://vimeo.com/398532027>

### Visiting

To restrict the spread of the virus, there will be no routine visiting of the sick and the housebound until further notice. We aim to maintain contact by phone. Fr. Mark is available to give the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing) to the seriously ill and the dying.

### Masses

The Mass, being the great offering of Jesus Himself which effected our reconciliation with the Father and by which Jesus becomes present amongst us, is central to our Catholic identity. Not being able to attend Mass over the coming weeks will be very painful. No one, however, should be in any doubt. While there is a general obligation for Catholics to attend Sunday Mass, it is not absolute. The Bishops have suspended the Mass obligation in the very serious circumstances in which we find ourselves. God willing, I will continue to offer Mass daily, but, as instructed, without a congregation. The Mass intentions set out overleaf will, therefore, be said but not at the normal daily Mass times. On Sundays I will offer the Mass *pro populo*, for you, all the people of the parish. In doing so, our sufferings and anxieties at this time are united to the great prayer of Jesus on the Cross and are heard by God the Father. The other Sunday Mass intentions will be offered at during the week by Fr. William Nicol. The Masses celebrated in church will be available through the You Tube channel: Church of Holy Ghost and St Stephen or the link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkngzmljesVhOV-zegZLUqQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkngzmljesVhOV-zegZLUqQ?view_as=subscriber). Hopefully, this will be available by Sunday. Many churches stream a daily Mass. See the sites for Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream> and EWTN <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings>

**Parish Office**

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 10:00 - 14:30; Friday: 10:00-14:00

**Good Shepherd**

**Catholic Primary School**  
35 Gayford Road  
[www.goodshepherdrc.lbhf.sch.uk](http://www.goodshepherdrc.lbhf.sch.uk)

020 8743 5060

Head: Mrs. Imogen Lavelle

**Catholic Chaplaincies****Charing Cross Hospital**

020 3311 1042

**Hammersmith Hospital**

020 3313 4574

**Safeguarding Officers**

07561 588717

Lucy Road

[shepherdsbushsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

[drcdow.org.uk](http://drcdow.org.uk)

Cathrin Sarll

[shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

[ardrcdow.org.uk](http://ardrcdow.org.uk)

**Planned giving scheme**

(envelopes/standing orders)

Gary O'Brien

07392 203005

**Text giving scheme**

Text 'Parish SHEPB' to

70800

**St. Vincent De Paul (SVP)**

Mobile: 07925 560538

**Young mums group**

Thurs. 7.30 pm monthly.

Call or text Laura on

07944 135275

**Young dads group**

Thurs. 7.30 pm monthly

[darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk)

[uk](http://uk)

**Young adults group**

Meets Sun. 6 pm monthly

[santiagopise@hotmail.com](mailto:santiagopise@hotmail.com)

**British Summer Time**

Some cheering news: the days are getting longer and the clocks go forward one hour at 1.00 am next Sunday, 29 March.

**Baptisms**

We welcome Jasmine Russell, who was baptised last week.

The baptism preparation sessions planned for this week and next are cancelled. For the moment, there are no further baptisms except in case of necessity, i.e. a serious risk to health.

**Readings at Sunday Mass**

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,10-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Psalm Response: 22 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;**

**anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Church cleaning:

Suspended until further notice

*Year A – Volume 1, 164-170*

**Mass Intentions for Week - 21 March - 29 March 2020**

Saturday 21 March

Maria Doleres Egan, RIP

Sunday 22 March

Pro populo

*Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare)*

Pasqualina Vuoto, RIP

Annie Flynn, Anniv.

Monday, 23 March

Patrick Byrne, RIP

Tuesday, 24 March

John & Peggy Phelan, Anniv.

Wednesday, 25 March

Ilyas Khan, int.

*Annunciation*

Joe Scally, RIP

Thursday 26 March

Mark Davenport, Anniv.

Friday, 27 March

Mary O'Hara, RIP

Saturday 28 March

**No Mass**

Gleeson family, RIP

Sunday 29 March

John Hamilton & Peter Daniel, Anniv.

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Micky & Marian McGilligan, RIP

Pro populo

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:**

Pierina Beltrami, Christopher Browne, May Carter, Agnes Charles, Tom Cooke, Pasquale de Stefano, Sheila Dineen, Tony Inkim, Sandra Jones, Bridget McMorro, Sidney and Beryl Oest, Imelda O'Sullivan, Maria Samele, Gemma Sweny, Franco Vuoto, Ellen White, Doris Williams, Sarah Williams, the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents and all affected by the coronavirus.

**Spiritual Communion**

Most of us are accustomed to receiving Jesus sacramentally in Holy Communion. That is how it should be. But we should never forget that there are many Catholics for whom this is not possible: the seriously ill, those persecuted for their faith and those who far from the closest Mass. Jesus is not absent from these people and nor is He from us now. God sees that we want to be present at Mass, and it is this intention which matters to Him. Conscious, therefore, that Mass continues to be celebrated in our church and for our intention, let us unite ourselves spiritually to Jesus Who gave His life that we might enjoy eternal life. In doing so, let us say the following prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori:

*'My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen.'*

It is good to follow at home the Scripture readings for the Mass of the day. Many of you have your hand missals which contain the readings. The Catholic Truth Society publish a Sunday missal with readings, available for just £1 from <https://www.ctsbooks.org/product/cts-new-sunday-missal-2020/> (Let us know if you need help ordering.) Magnificat is a wonderful resource, a monthly booklet delivered by post, containing the daily readings, the order of Mass, morning, evening and night prayers, daily reflections and regular pieces on the saints and Catholic art. The annual subscription is £42 and can be obtained at <https://subscriptions.catholicerald.co.uk/magnificat/magnificat.htm> Universalis is an app available for download which provides the daily readings and prayers of the Church. Make sure you select the UK version.

Over the coming weeks we will reflect on further resources available and how we can use this time as an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and increase our faith.

**Be Calm**

'Do not anticipate what might happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father Who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings,' St. Francis de Sales

## **Holy Ghost & St. Stephen Statement**

In light of the corona virus situation the Bishops have decided that there are no public Masses or services from Friday, 20 March until further notice.

All parish groups, catechesis, activities and meetings are cancelled until further notice. It is too early to say if and how the celebration of First Holy Communions and Confirmation will be affected.

Our churches remain open for private prayer – the church porch at most times during daylight hours. The church will be open and the Blessed Sacrament exposed 9.30-10.30 am daily, starting from this Sunday, 22 March. Please observe basic hygiene requirements with the use of hand gel and social distancing (sitting at least 2 meters apart).

God willing, I will continue to celebrate Mass privately each day. These Masses will be available through the You Tube channel: Church of Holy Ghost and St Stephen or the link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkngzmlJesVhOV-zegZLUqQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkngzmlJesVhOV-zegZLUqQ?view_as=subscriber). Hopefully, this will be available by Sunday.

As the Church, we remain in contact with God and with one another. Continue to pray and read Scripture at home. Make use of good resources on the Internet – more information to be provided. The Parish Office remains open at the normal hours for phone and E-Mail inquiries only. The newsletter will be published online at <https://www.rcshepherdsbush.org/news-information/newsletter/> Please print off copies for parishioners who may not have access to the Internet.

There have been very generous offers to help the elderly and those who might be self-isolating. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone in the parish in these groups who has no one to care for them. Please make continue phone contact with these groups, assuring them of our thoughts and prayers.

This is a difficult time. But, with God's grace and prayer, we will come through the other side. Pray for me, as I pray for you.

Fr. Mark  
22 March 2020