



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



29 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

£57.50

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

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

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year A



Fr. Mark writes: Today is 'Passion' Sunday: the statues are veiled, the prayers of Mass emphasize Our Lord's impending suffering and Cross. He is close to us in these days of difficulty and suffering. He knows what we endure; He offers us hope and comfort. Even now the readings point beyond the Cross. Ezekiel relays God's promise: 'I mean to raise you from your graves, my people.' The Psalm: 'With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.' The Gospel in which Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus responds to the entreaties of Lazarus's distraught sisters. 'This sickness will not end in death but in God's glory.' Jesus speaks and acts not just for the benefit of Lazarus, but for all the faithful: 'If anyone believes in Me, even though he dies he will leave.' The proof is the raising of Lazarus, the Resurrection itself.

Beryl Oest, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Beryl Oest. There are no funeral Masses currently, only simple burial or cremation services. Requiem Masses for the deceased can be offered when normality returns.

Communication

It is vital that we 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, pray with them. Newsletters and homilies will be published on the Website. Please run off copies to those unable to access it in this way.

Visiting

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

Masses

The fact the church building is closed, does not mean that the Church is closed. God willing, I will continue to offer daily Mass without a congregation. The Mass intentions will be said by myself or Fr. William. On Sundays I will offer the Mass *pro populo*, for you, the people of the parish. In doing so, our sufferings and anxieties are united to the great prayer of Jesus on the Cross and are heard by God the Father. The Masses can be viewed at the You Tube channel: Church of the Holy Ghost and St Stephen or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkngzmIjesVhOV-zegZLUqQ?view_as=subscriber. The readings from Mass can be found at <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>.

Rule of Life

We need structure in our life. It is how we function as human beings. It is a good thing, provided we incorporate flexibility when necessary. Our daily routines have been completely disrupted, leaving us feeling insecure and bewildered. Accept that disruption. There is no point raging against something we can't change. Rather, let's create new rhythms for daily life. The Church has had 2,000 years of practice in this area. She has always recommended that priests, monks and nuns have a rule of life – a regular pattern of daily life, where, all things being equal, we plan out our day in terms of prayer, work, study, meals and recreation. It is something we can all adapt into our own lives and, in the process, draw closer to God.

I have created a simple 'Rule of Life' which I have posted to the parish Web site with this newsletter. It gives a series of prayers and devotions and suggested times when they might be used. This is meant to be flexible. Use what you find helpful and adapt the times as might be helpful to you.

Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary

Today (Sunday) England will once more be re-dedicated as a gift to Mary, as the country was in the Middle Ages, seeking Our Lady's prayers and protection. I will make that act of re-dedication in the church; we can do so together when normality returns. But even today we can participate in that re-dedication by praying the rosary, by visiting www.Behold2020.com

Parish Office

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

Good Shepherd

Catholic Primary School
35 Gayford Road
www.goodshepherdrc.lbhfsch.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

Cathrin Sarll
shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardrcdow.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

Young adults group

Meets Sun. 6 pm monthly
santiagopise@hotmail.com

Parish Office

The Parish Office is currently closed. Sherry will pick up E-Mail messages remotely. Any urgent matters should be directed to Fr. Mark.

Parish Groups

All parish groups, activities and meetings, including Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes, are suspended until further notice. It is too early to say yet if First Holy Communion and Confirmation will proceed as scheduled.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Year A – Volume 1, 170-175

Ezekiel 7:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Psalm Response: 129 With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Church cleaning:

Suspended until further notice

Mass Intentions for Week - 21 March - 29 March 2020

Saturday 28 March

Gleeson family, RIP

Sunday 29 March

John Hamilton & Peter Daniel, Anniv.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Micky & Marian McGilligan, RIP

Pro populo

Monday, 30 March

John & Michael Brick, RIP

Tuesday, 31 March

John & Lucy Phelan, Anniv.

Wednesday, 1 April

Penny Moran, RIP

Thursday 2 April

Penny Moran, RIP

Friday, 3 April

Private int. (J.H)

Saturday 4 April

Veronica Mythen, Anniv.

Antonia McMurray, RIP

Sunday 5 April

Pro populo

Palm Sunday

Robert Barry & Barry family, RIP

Jim Molloy & Holy Souls, RIP

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 Oest, Martin O'Callaghan, 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

When we can't receive Holy Communion: '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.'

Act of Contrition

When unable to go to Confession (with sorrow for our sins, the intention to amend our lives and to go to Confession in the future when possible: 'O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, Whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me into sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy.'

Spiritual Resources

We did not choose this time of crisis, but we can turn it to our advantage to increase our knowledge and wonder about God and the human person. There are many great resources – anything on You Tube produced by Bishop Robert Barron or Fr. Mike Schmitz is always worth watching. Also on You Tube is a series looking at belief through the perspective of art. Search for the first episode: 'The Art of Faith: God and us.' Georgia, our Confirmation catechist, has been involved in creating a site <https://www.lentinisolation.com/videos> which includes the readings and reflections from the Scripture of daily Mass.

I appreciate that many older parishioners do not have access to the Internet, and am grateful to younger family members who have set this up for them in some cases. We don't need the Internet, however, to pray. Pick up a Bible, missal or rosary – or, best of all, talk to God in your own words.

Sub tuum praesidium

It is the natural instinct to turn to our mothers in time of difficulty and danger. It is the same with our Mother in heaven, who continues to care for her children. One of the oldest Christian prayers, dating back over 1,700 years invokes the help of Our Lady. Let us turn to her now: 'We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.'