



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove
London W12 9BU
Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



27 November 2022

Mass Times:

Sunday Masses

6.00 pm (Saturday)
9.15, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm

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 & 7.00 pm

Parish Office

Monday, Tuesday, Friday:
10:00 -14:00

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sat 10.00-10.45 am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

First Saturday: 8.45 am -
suspended

Rosary

After 9.30 am daily Mass
during the week

Confessions

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

£1,192.86

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

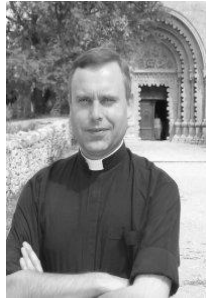
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **James Morris**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

First Sunday of Advent - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: Resist the urge to put up the tree and hang the decorations. Christmas is still a full four weeks away. Celebrating Christmas now is a little like having the reception a month before the wedding. When the day arrives, everything feels a little flat; we have missed the point.

Advent is a distinct and beautiful season in its own right, a time to be experienced and to benefit from. It means creating space and silence to wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord, both as a baby in the crib at Christmas and in glory at the Second Coming. If you can do just one thing, I suggest coming to the Rorate Mass (see below) to capture just a few moments of that Advent mystery and expectation.

Rite of Acceptance

Please pray for Molly, Antoni, Stuart, Alice and Joe who are formally enrolled on the RCIA programme at the 11 am Mass this morning as they continue their preparation for sacraments next Easter.

Mary's Meals: Double the Love

Mary's Meals is a wonderful charity feeding 2.2 million hungry children around the world every day. By offering a nutritious meal in school, they ensure that children are both fed and receive an education. Fundraising activities were severely curtailed during the pandemic, so we will have a second collection for the charity after the Masses this weekend. Alternatively, you can make a bank transfer to the Mary's Meals account at RBS: sort code 83-26-24, account number 00609134. Thanks to generous donors, every £ given will be matched, doubling the love.

Advent

1. Please help yourself to an **Advent giving calendar** from the back of church. Instead of receiving a small gift each day of Advent, we pledge (as best we can) to give the item specified to those experiencing poverty, so that by the end of the Advent we have built up substantial food basket. If you bring the basket to church before Christmas, we will deliver it to the food bank in White City.
2. All of us should be making use of the sacrament of **Confession** during Advent to prepare ourselves spiritually to welcome the Christ Child. There will be a visiting priest, Fr. Gerald Sheehan available to hear Confessions during all the Sunday Masses next weekend, **3/4 December**.
3. We have our annual **Rorate Mass** at **7.00 am on Wednesday, 14 December**. Mass is by candlelight with Gregorian chant. With Our Lady with joyfully await the coming dawn, Christ, her Son.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be celebrated here at **12 noon on Saturday, 10 June 2023**. The programme is for those in school Year 9+ attending Mass here. It begins with a parents' meeting in church at **7.30 pm on 16 January**. From **Monday, 30 January**, the young people then meet on Monday evenings in school term time with a day retreat on **Saturday, 22 April**. There are application forms at the back of church. Please return with the fee of £50 and, if not baptised here, a copy of their baptism certificate, by the New Year.

Vinnie Packs

The SVP is distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques payable to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you so much for your support.

World Youth Day 2023

Millions of young Catholics gather with the Pope for World Youth Day every two or three years. The next gathering is in Lisbon **31 July-7 August 2023**. If James were to organise a group from the parish, are there those aged 18-35 interested in joining him? The package of very basic accommodation, food and local public transport is 235 Euros. With flight and spending money, it should be possible to do this for under £500. Please contact James for more information at shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

Monday, Tuesday, Friday:
10:00 -14:00

Good Shepherd

Catholic Primary School
35 Gayford Road
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

Lucy Road
shepherdsbushsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Cathrin Sarll
shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Planned giving scheme

(envelopes/standing orders)
Gary O'Brien
07392 203005

St. Vincent De Paul (SVP)

Mobile: 07925 560538

Young mums group

Thurs. 7.30 pm monthly.
Call or text Gersende on
07523 501508

Young dads group

Thurs. 7.30 pm monthly
darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk

Young adults group

Monthly, Sun. evenings
shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday Scriptures

Fridays, 4.45-5.45 pm
For further information:
jroberts@thetablet.co.uk

PDQ

The young adults group (18-35) meets in the Parish House at 7 pm this (Sunday) evening for pizza, drinks and questions. We will reflect on the four Last Things.

Food Bank

Many thanks for your generous donations. Please keep them coming. They are a lifeline for many families. We are looking especially for non-perishable foods, toiletries, laundry and cleaning products.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Psalms 121: Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy

and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

Church cleaning: Suspended until further notice

Year A - Volume 2, 82-84

Mass Intentions for Week: 26 November - 4 December 2022

Saturday, 26 November	18.00	Christine & Dominic Egan, Anniv.
Sunday, 27 November	9:15	Arlette Lutchmaya, RIP
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	John & Michael Brick, Anniv.
	18.00	Pro populo
Monday, 28 November	9.30	Rita Ferns, RIP
Tuesday, 29 November	9.30	Mary O'Gorman & family, int.
Wednesday, 30 November	7.00	Anthony & Patrick Gallen, Anniv.
<i>St Andrew</i>		
Thursday, 1 December	19.00	Eileen Lally, RIP
Friday, 2 December	9.30	Canon John Formby & Canon Reggie Fuller, RIP
Saturday, 3 December	9.30	Tom Cooke, int.
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>		
	18.00	Pro populo
Sunday, 4 December	9:15	Sue & Mike Hennessy, Anniv.
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Margaret Campbell, RIP
	18.00	Nicholas Hobson, RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Agnes Charles, Tom Cooke, Finian & Helen Cox, Joe Davenport, Pasquale de Stefano, Ruth Faucher, Kay & Rosemarie Healy, Mary Hill, Sandra Jones, Bridget McMorrow, Maria Nicholls, Bridget Parker, Elaine Samuels, Peter Sands, Jay St Clair, Gemma Sweny, Franco Vuoto, Laura Walsh, Ellen White & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents.

Children's Liturgy

Before the pandemic children between Reception and making the First Holy Communion in Year 3 went out of church towards the start of Mass to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in vocabulary and with activities appropriate to their age. This is something we plan to resume in the New Year. Pre-pandemic, Children's Liturgy took place at the 11.00 am Mass. I am conscious, however, that there are probably more young children at the 9.15 am Mass. If you are a parent with children of this age, would you rather see the Children's Liturgy at the 9.15 or 11 am Mass? I am very grateful to the catechists (mainly young parents) who assist with this.

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available to sign priest references for primary school applications **7-9 pm on Wednesday, 4 January**. The parent/carer (who attends Mass here) should attend. Please bring the Certificate of Catholic Practice (one per school) having completed your child's details and (if the baptism did not take place here) your child's baptism certificate. For an **appointment**, please E-Mail James at shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk He will then confirm the time. In seeking a reference, you are asking the priest to confirm that your child is a baptised Catholic and that the family have attended Mass here each Sunday over a period of years. If you have recently moved into the parish or attend Mass more regularly elsewhere, it makes sense to seek a reference from that other parish.

Marriage Preparation

All Catholics should marry in church to receive the graces and blessings we need and which God wishes to give for our marriage and family life to flourish. The process isn't complicated or expensive. One requirement is attendance at a marriage preparation course. We have a course here for those marrying in 2023 over two afternoons: **2-5 pm, Saturday, 28 January and 4 February**. Please let Fr. Mark know if you wish to attend. This will be the only course offered here in the coming year. There are marriage preparation courses offered elsewhere for those unable to make those dates.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

From the First Sunday of Advent until the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February, the anthem we sing to Our Lady at the end of the 11 am Mass changes from the *Salve Regina* to the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, 'Loving Mother of the Redeemer.' Copies are available at the back of church.