



# 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)



**19 March 2023**

## 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

**£1,177.51**

**Thank-you**

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

Catechetical Co-ordinator: **James Morris**

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E-Mail: [shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk)

E-Mail: [shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk)

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



**Fr. Mark writes:** Another of the long Gospel readings which are given to us on the later Sundays of Lent. Perhaps the reason for these lengthy readings is to show us that the journey to faith is, for most, a process rather than a moment. God offers us the time we need to come to a decision, but at the end of the day we must decide.

It seems to take everyone concerned some time to recognise the true identity of Jesus and what becomes possible with faith in Him. Like so many today, the man's parents are noncommittal, refusing to go beyond the surface. Yes, they acknowledge something extraordinary has happened, but they are not prepared to investigate the cause of this, i.e. contact with Jesus. The Pharisees are worse. They close their

minds, conclusively refusing to accept that Jesus can heal bodies and souls. Even with the blind man himself, it is a slow process. Firstly, he can only say that 'the man called Jesus' healed him. It takes ongoing contact with Jesus to move him forward, but at least he is willing to make that journey. On reflection, he is able to say that Jesus 'is a prophet'. He continues to engage with Jesus, as we should in prayer and worship, and that finally allows him to accept Jesus as the Son of Man, to believe and to worship Him.

## Mothers' Day

A very happy Mothers' Day to all our mothers. We pray for our mothers, living and deceased.

## Baptisms

We welcome Keyontae Aniakor-Forrester and Aleya Stewart-Ogarro, who are baptised this weekend.

The next baptism preparation sessions for parents attending Mass here who like young children baptised are at 8.00 pm on **Thursday, 13 and 27 April**. If you attend both sessions, we can arrange a date for the baptism after the second. (There is no need to attend if you have already attended sessions here for an older child. In this case, just request a baptism application form.)

## Confession

Lent is a time for spiritual stocktaking, being honest about where we stand with God. Confession should be part of our Lent, allowing God to deal with anything that needs to be forgiven, receiving His grace and mercy. Fr. Mark will be hearing Confessions at the regular times each Saturday, 10-10.45 am and 5.15-5.45 pm, as well as for an hour after the 6 pm Mass on Sunday, 26 March.

## Teas & Coffee

The SVP are kindly providing tea and coffee in the Parish House basement after the 9.30 am Mass on Tuesday mornings. An opportunity to catch up and socialise. All welcome.

There have been requests for tea and coffee after the 9.15 am Mass on Sundays. Please let Fr. Mark know if there are volunteers who might be willing to help. If so, we can start after Easter.

## Marie Duff, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marie Duff. Her funeral Mass will be at **11.00 am** this **Wednesday, 22 March**. There will be no 7.00 am Mass this Wednesday morning.

## Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

You are very welcome to join us for this series of DVDs presented by Jeff Cavins of the Bible Timeline, giving an overview of the Bible. This evening we reflect on David and the kings of Israel. The DVDs are shown at **7.30 pm** on this and every **Wednesday** evening during Lent in the Parish House basement.

## Mums' Group

The mums' group will lead an hour of prayerful reflection in the church at **8.00 pm** this **Thursday, 23 March**. There will also be the opportunity for quiet prayer before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and the chance to use the sacrament of Confession. A much-needed oasis of peace for the Lenten season. All women of the parish are invited to join them.

**Parish Office**

Monday, Tuesday, 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 Officer**

Cathrin Sarll  
[shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardscdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushsg2@safeguardscdow.org.uk)

**Planned giving scheme**

(envelopes/standing orders)

Gary O'Brien  
07392 203005

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

Mobile: 07925 560538

**Young mums group**

Fri. 10.30 am monthly  
Contact Charlotte or Izzy  
[ashchurchmums@gmail.com](mailto:ashchurchmums@gmail.com)

**Young dads group**

Thurs. 8.00 pm monthly  
[darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk)

**Young adults group**

Monthly, Sun. evenings  
[shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk)

**Sunday Scriptures**

Fridays, 4.45-5.45 pm  
For further information:  
[jroberts@thetablet.co.uk](mailto:jroberts@thetablet.co.uk)

## British Summer Time

British Summer Time starts next weekend. Please remember to move your clocks forward one hour next Saturday evening in order to arrive at the correct time for Mass on Sunday.

## Food Bank

Many thanks for your donations. Please do keep them coming – many rely on them. We are looking especially for non-perishable foods, toiletries, laundry and cleaning products.

**Readings at Sunday Mass**

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

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

Psalm 22 Response: 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: Next Saturday (25 March): Nancy, Mary & Rose.

## Mass Intentions for Week: 18 - 26 March 2023

Saturday, 18 March	18.00	Tom & Phyllis Cooke & family, int.
Sunday, 19 March	9:15	Pro populo
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>(Laetare)</i>	11:00	Annie Flynn, Anniv.
	18.00	Patsy Boyce, RIP
Monday, 20 March	9.30	James Doherty, Anniv.
<b>St Joseph</b>		
Tuesday, 21 March	9.30	Rickie Gurvidi, RIP
Wednesday, 22 March	<b>11.00</b>	Marie Duff, RIP: Funeral
Thursday, 23 March	19.00	Ruby Roach & family, int.
Friday, 24 March	9.30	Bridget McMorrow, RIP
Saturday, 25 March	9.30	David Oliver, RIP
<b>Annunciation</b>		
	18.00	Tom & Phyllis Cooke & family, int.
Sunday, 26 March	9:15	Paul Johnson, RIP
<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	11:00	Pro populo
	18.00	McMorrow Family, int.

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

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

## Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

The Cardinal invites all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023 to the Annual Mass of Thanksgiving in Westminster Cathedral at **2.30 pm** on **Saturday, 13 May**. If you are celebrating an anniversary and wish to attend, please give Fr. Mark the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

## Stations of the Cross

We pray the Stations of the Cross together, following Our Lord on His path to Calvary, in church at **7.30 pm** every **Friday** evening during Lent.

## Adoremus

We have an hour's candlelit prayer in the church after the 6 pm Mass on **Sunday, 26 March**. There will be the opportunity for Confession, and we finish with Benediction at **7.45 pm**. A time for Lenten prayer and recollection.

## Catholic Curry Club

The group for dads with young children meets next in the Parish House at **8.00 pm** on **Thursday, 30 March**. One of our own members, Richard Sarll, will be sharing his thoughts and choices of religious verse. From the Psalms onwards, some of the deepest and most beautiful expressions of faith have been expressed in poetry. The conversation continues over curry. If you would like to join us, please let Dario know at [darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk)

## Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

'In reality there is no chance in the incident. It is something planned by God from eternity to show us the way of Christ's love: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." It means that no one is meant to suffer alone. No one is meant to carry his own cross without some other human being to help him ... A man who claims to be self-sufficient and not to need any other man's help in hardship and suffering has no part in Christ. The pride which claims to be independent of human sympathy and practical help from others is un-Christian. We are here to help Christ in one another,' Caryll Houselander