



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



2 February 2025

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:

Sun 7.00-7.45 pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

First Saturday: 8.45 am - suspended

Rosary

After 9.30 am daily Mass during the week

Confessions

Sat 10 am, 5.15-5.45 pm

Sun 7.00-7.45 pm

or by request

Baptism

See Parish Priest

Preparation obligatory

Marriage

See Parish Priest

Six months' notice

required

Preparation obligatory

Last week's collection

£1,637.54

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Lawrence Dunham**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Presentation of the Lord - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: Traditionally, the Christmas season came to an end today, Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation. The Temple in Jerusalem was the house of God. Yet, after the loss of the Ark of the Covenant, the most sacred part of the Temple, the Holy of Holies was empty. And yet, at the same time, there was the expectation, which we hear in the prophet Malachi, that God would enter the Temple. That happens today in the most surprising fashion as the new-born Jesus is carried into the Temple by His Mother, Mary. Even more surprising is the fact that He, the Light of the World, is present in every church and dwells in the tabernacle. This is the house of God.

The Presentation

Today, is the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), the traditional end of the Christmas season. Any candles you have brought with you will be blessed at the beginning of Mass.

Blessing of Throats

Tomorrow, **Monday, 3 February** is the Feast of St. Blaise. We have the traditional blessing of throats after the **9.30 am** Mass.

Confirmation Programme

The first session for the candidates is in the Parish House basement at **7.30 pm** tomorrow **Monday, 3 February**.

Ellen ('Nellie') McGill, Mary Costello & Andy Forkin, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Nellie McGill, Mary Costello and Andy Forkin. Nellie's funeral Mass will be at **9.30 am** this **Wednesday, 5 February**. (This will take the place of the 7.00 am parish Mass on Wednesday.) Mary's funeral Mass will be at **11.00 am** on **Friday, 14 February**. Andy's funeral Mass will be at **11.00 am** on **Friday, 28 February**.

Catholic Book Club

A number of parishioners met for the new parish Book Club. They are reading and discussing Caryl Houselander's *Dry Wood*. She is one of the most important English Catholic writers of the twentieth century. This, her only novel, is set in London's docklands and addresses the subject of human suffering. The Club meets next in the Parish House at 4.30 pm on Thursday, 13 February. You are very welcome to join them. Please contact Lawrence at shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Winter Warmer: 23 February

The group who put on teas and coffees are proposing to host a curry lunch (with a variety of curries and puddings) in the Parish House basement at **12 noon** on **Sunday, 23 February**. Tickets (limited to 22 adults) are £10 for adults, £3 for children and are available from Nova Ferguson. Proceeds will go to the charity Mary's Meals, feeding hungry children around the world.

Baptism Preparation Sessions

Children should be baptised in the first weeks of their lives. We have baptism preparation sessions in the Parish House basement at **7.30 pm** on **Wednesday, 26 and Thursday, 27 February** for parents attending Mass each Sunday. If you have not attended baptism preparation for an older child, you should do so now, and we can arrange a date for the baptism after the second session.

Planning a Catholic Funeral

There seems so much to think of and organise when someone dies. It is helpful to have some guidance and, if possible, to plan in advance. I have placed at the back of church more copies of the brief instruction I have prepared on planning a Catholic funeral.

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 Officer

Tabitha Brenninkmeijer

07746 697132

shepherdsbushsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Planned giving scheme

(envelopes/standing orders)

Gary O'Brien

07392 203005

St. Vincent De Paul (SVP)

Mobile: 07925 560538

Mums & Toddlers

Fri. 10.30 am monthly

Contact Ellie

ashchurchmums@gmail.com

Young dads group

Thurs. 8.00 pm monthly

Input, discussion and curry

darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Scriptures

Fridays, 4.45-5.45 pm

For further information:

jroberts@thetablet.co.uk

Catholic Book Club

Contact Lawrence

shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday Scriptures Group

This group meets in the Parish House at **4.45 pm** on Fridays to reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings. All are welcome to attend.

Food Bank

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

Readings at Sunday Mass

Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Psalm 24 Response: The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.
Alleluia!**

Church cleaning: Saturday, 8 February: Catherine, Gina & Akosua.

Year C - Volume 1, 296-301

Mass Intentions for Week: 1 - 9 February 2025

Saturday, 1 February	18.00	Alf Sweney, Anniv.
Sunday, 2 February	9:15	Pro populo
<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	11:00	Bideen Nee, RIP
	18.00	John, Rosemarie, Tim, Stephen & Sean Healy, RIP
Monday, 3 February	9.30	Josephine Sweeney, RIP
<i>St. Blaise</i>		
Tuesday, 4 February	9.30	Michel Phelan, RIP
Wednesday, 5 February	9.30	Ellen ('Nellie') McGill, RIP: Funeral
<i>St Agatha</i>		
Thursday, 6 February	19.00	James & Finbar Molloy & Marcella & family, int.
<i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>		
Friday, 7 February	9.30	In Thanksgiving
Saturday, 8 February	9.30	Michael Phelan, RIP
	18.00	Phyllis Cooke & family, int
Sunday, 9 February	9:15	Sybil Jordan, int.
	11:00	Michael Nee, RIP
	18.00	Pro populo

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Joe Davenport, Pasquale de Stefano, Adrian Duggan, Kay Gleeson, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Anna McCarthy, Marilyn McDonald, Maria Nicholls, John O'Neill, Harriet Paterson, Jay St Clair, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, Laura Walsh, & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents

Lourdes Mass

Cardinal Nichols will celebrate Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Cathedral at **2.00 pm** next **Saturday, 8 February**. Anointing will be offered to the sick. Spaces will be reserved for wheelchair users and the walking sick who are looking to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, together with those assisting them. Please let us know if you require seats reserved and in which category.

Messy Family Project

The Messy Family Project is run by Mike and Alicia Hernon in the US to empower parents to embrace their sacred calling. They are speaking at number of venues in the UK in March. On **Thursday, 6 March, 8-9.30 pm**, they will speak on 'Growing a Family Culture' at the Good Shepherd School. This will be preceded by a light meal. No fee, but donations are invited to cover costs. A number of parents of young children have already expressed an interest. Please let Fr. Mark know if you wish to attend. For more details see <https://messyfamilyproject.org/>

The Spear Programme

Many young people struggle with the after effects of COVID and the general pressures of modern life. Resurgo, a Christian organisation, with a branch in Hammersmith runs the Spear Programme. It helps those aged 16-24 realise their potential by providing the confidence, motivation and skills needed for employment. I have no direct experience but have been recommended it by parishioners whose family members have enrolled: <https://resurgo.org.uk/spear-programme/what-is-the-spear-programme/>

Thanksgiving for Matrimony

The Cardinal invites couples celebrating significant anniversaries during 2025 to join him in Westminster Cathedral for a Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony at **2.30 pm** on **Saturday, 17 May**. Couples are invited to renew their marital commitment, and we pray for them and their families. If you wish to attend, please let me have: your names, full postal address, wedding date and E-Mail address (or telephone number). A personal invitation will then be sent to you closer to the date.