



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



3 August 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

£1,246.91

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

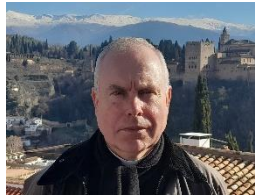
Catechetical Co-ordinator: Awaiting appointment 1/9

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: 'Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.' The voice of the cynic which many in the modern world would agree with. 'Why bother? What's the point? After all, nothing I can do will make a difference.' A common view, but what place does it have in Scripture?

It is a salutary warning against over-confidence in our own efforts, a reminder that this world and everything in it is passing. The passage, however, is from the Old Testament. Everything changes with the coming of Christ, as St Paul proclaims. Thanks to Him, we can look forward to eternal life, and our conduct in this world has a bearing on that. What we believe and do matters profoundly.

Rev Theogenes Madushi

We welcome the Rev Theogenes Madushi, a newly-ordained deacon from Tanzania who is studying at the Urbaniana University in Rome. He is with us for five weeks while undertaking language studies in London. I am sure that you will make him welcome and give him the opportunity to practise his English.

Mission Appeal: 9/10 August

The annual Mission Appeal this year is on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers). Fr. Jude Burgers of the community will make the Appeal at all the Masses next weekend after which there will be a second collection on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? RCIA

Jesus Christ calls everyone to the greatest degree of unity imaginable with Himself through receiving the sacraments of baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion as members of the Catholic Church. This is reflected in our faith in Him and lives of worship, truth, morality and compassion.

In the past these sacraments were normally received at a young age. Increasingly, this may not be the case – the reason for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The RCIA group meets at **8 pm** most Tuesdays, starting on **Tuesday, 30 September**. It is for those previously of no faith or other faiths, other Christians who wish to become Catholics, and Catholics who missed out on First Communion and/or Confirmation when they were younger. We reflect on what Catholics believe, how we pray, and how we live our faith in the world. It is a journey of discovery and explanation which those in previous years have found enormously fulfilling. Sixteen adults were baptised, confirmed and received here last Easter – probably the highest number ever. There are no expectations. Only if right for the individual, do they receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, 4 April 2026. Several people have expressed an interest in joining the group in the autumn. If this interests you, please contact Fr. Mark at markvickers@rcdow.org.uk There are yellow leaflets with further details at the back of church.

Summer Schedule

There will be no 6.00 pm Sunday Mass during August from this evening until Sunday, 7 September. The Children's Liturgy Group and Sunday morning teas and coffees Mass also take a break during August.

Baptism

Baptism is essential. It is the beginning of our life in Christ and the ordinary way of attaining heaven. Given its importance, parents are urged to have their children baptised in the first weeks of their life. Of course, baptism isn't a one-off event. It is meant to be part of an ongoing relationship with Christ and His Church. Thus, the family should be attending Sunday Mass regularly and living the Christian life. The next baptism preparation sessions for parents attending Mass here each Sunday who wish to have young children baptised are in the Parish House at **7.30 pm** on **Monday, 8 and 15 September**. If you attend both sessions, we can arrange a date for the baptism after the second session. (If you have attended sessions here for an older child, there is no need to do so again – please contact Fr. Mark with a view to arranging the baptism.)

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

07956 260964

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 Sunday Scriptures group takes a break now for the summer holidays and will resume on Friday, 5 September.

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Luke 12:13-21

Psalm 90 Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia.**

Church cleaning: Saturday 9 August: Alexandra & Michelle.

Mass Intentions for Week: 2 - 10 August 2025

Saturday, 2 August	18.00	Pro populo
Sunday, 3 August	9:15	Catherine & Eve Jordan, int.
	11:00	Joseph Davenport, Anniv.
	18.00	No Mass
Monday, 4 August	9.30	Dennis Gerard Duggan, RIP
<i>St John Vianney</i>		
Tuesday, 5 August	9.30	Stephanie Chidiogo, int
Wednesday, 6 August	7.00	Margaret Molloy, int.
<i>Transfiguration</i>		
Thursday, 7 August	19.00	Emma Panting, int.
Friday, 8 August	9.30	Virginia Arendt, RIP
<i>St Dominic</i>		
Saturday, 9 August	9.30	Maureen Cuddihy, RIP
<i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>		
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP
Sunday, 10 August	9:15	Pro populo
	11:00	In Thanksgiving
	18.00	No Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Pasquale de Stefano, Adrian Duggan, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Marilyn McDonald, Maria Nicholls, John O'Neill, Milly Redhead, Jay St Clair, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents.

First Holy Communion

The 2026 First Confession and First Holy Communion programme starts with a parents' meeting in church at **3.00 pm** on **Sunday, 5 October**. The programme is for the children of families attending here Mass each Sunday who are entering school Year 3 in September. The commitment to Sunday Mass – before, during and after the programme – is crucial if we are to practise our own faith with integrity and help our children grow in their faith. The children meet in the Good Shepherd School on Sunday mornings during school term time (normally alternate weeks) and attend the 11 am Mass together afterwards. The celebration of First Holy Communion itself will be at two Masses at 12 noon on **Saturday, 16 and 23 May 2026**. Application forms will be available at Mass from the beginning of September.

Mass Intentions

The most powerful prayer we can make for someone is to have Mass said on their behalf – because the Mass is the prayer of Christ Himself to His Father on the Cross, answered in the Resurrection. Mass can be offered both for the living and the dead. To arrange a date for a Mass, please speak to the Parish Office or to the priest after Mass. Mass cards are on sale from the shop at the back of church. It is normal to make an offering to the Church on requesting a Mass intention. It is a donation, so at your discretion; most people offer £10 or £20.

Catholic churches and Mass times

We spoke last week about the need for rest and recreation. Hopefully, you will enjoy time away over the summer. Getting away should not, however, be a holiday from God. We are part of the Universal Church and the chances are, wherever you are going, you are not far from a Catholic church. Attending Sunday Mass there is an opportunity to engage with the local community and experience something of the diversity and similarity of the Church. A quick search of the Internet is usually all it takes to locate the closest church and Mass times – it may be worth checking these are up to date. There is a site for British churches <https://weekdaymasses.org.uk/en/main?quick=1> and another purporting to cover Catholic churches around the world <https://masstimes.org/>