



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



31 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

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Jack Harsley**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: The Letter to the Hebrews continues to offer insights as to what awaits those who are faithful. It begins by stating what not to expect – nothing that can be ‘touched’. It is the same message which St Paul gave the Corinthians: ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him.’ This far exceed what we can begin to imagine or hope for.

Hebrews does, however, offer a few indications. The heavenly and earthly realms will be joined. This is a joyful, festal gathering of both men and angels. Those who come to heaven are not there on sufferance. They are treated as ‘the firstborn’, beloved members of the family. ‘The spirits of the righteous’ of the righteous are there – those who have gone before us in the faith. We are in the presence of God the Father and of Jesus, Whose sacrifice at Calvary makes our entry into heaven possible.

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 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 sacraments when 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 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. 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.

Baptism

Baptism is the beginning of our life in Christ and the ordinary way of attaining heaven. Parents should have their children baptised in the first weeks of their life. Baptism isn't a one-off event, rather the start of an ongoing relationship with Christ and His Church. Thus, the family should be attending Mass each Sunday and living the Christian life. The next baptism preparation sessions for parents attending Mass here 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.

First Holy Communion

The 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 next month. 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 next week.

Jack Harsley

We welcome Jack Harsley, who takes up the position of parish Catechetical Co-ordinator this week. Jack is from Brough in East Yorkshire. He studied at the University of Hull and has worked in primary schools for the last five years, most recently with SEND/SEMH children at his local primary school. Jack is currently discerning priesthood in the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Last week's collection

£1,263.62

Thank-you

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 this 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

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Psalm 68 Response: In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia.**

Church cleaning: Saturday 6 September: Alexandra & Michelle.

Mass Intentions for Week: 30 August - 7 September 2025

Saturday, 30 August	18.00	Gleeson family, RIP
Sunday, 31 August	9:15	Pro populo
	11:00	John Ralph McKernan, RIP
	18.00	No Mass
Monday, 1 September	9.30	John, Rosemarie, Tim, Stephen & Sean Healy, RIP
Tuesday, 2 September	9.30	Carmel Fitzgerald, Anniv.
Wednesday, 3 September	7.00	Stephanie Chidiogo, int.
<i>St. Gregory the Great</i>		
Thursday, 4 September	19.00	Anne Nylon, RIP
Friday, 5 September	9.30	Lana Devine, int.
Saturday, 6 September	9.30	Laura Teresa Bellin, RIP
	18.00	Louise Edington, RIP
Sunday, 7 September	9:15	Teresa Kudese, RIP
	11:00	In Thanksgiving
	18.00	Pro populo

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Pasquale de Stefano, 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.

Mass Intentions

The most powerful prayer we can make for someone, living or dead, is to have Mass said on their behalf. The Mass is the prayer of Christ Himself to His Father on the Cross, answered in the Resurrection. To arrange a date for a Mass, please speak to the Parish Office or 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. (If a funeral comes in, it is possible that the date of a weekday Mass may have to be rearranged.)

Fire Drill

We are required to have a fire drill every three years. This will take place at the end of the Sunday Masses next week. Don't panic; it is only a drill. Please leave the church promptly as the alarm is sounded. Please offer assistance to anyone with mobility issues whom you might be sitting close to.

Summer Schedule

The Sunday evening Mass, Children's Liturgy and teas and coffee all resume next Sunday, 7 September.

The Seven Churches of the Revelation

Parishioners have asked about my trip to Turkey and Greece back in June. I covered a great deal of ground, celebrating Mass at Our Lady's house at Ephesus, visiting places associated with St. Paul, and also the seven churches to which St. John addressed letters in his Book of Revelation. I propose giving a talk on the Churches of the Revelation (illustrated with holiday photos) in the Parish House basement at **4.00 pm** next **Sunday, 7 September**: the context, the content of the letters, and their relevance to us. All welcome. Tea and coffee on arrival.

March for Life: 6 September

The cause of human life has suffered major setbacks in the UK recently with the Commons voting for assisted suicide and removing restrictions for abortion. We have the opportunity to be a presence promoting human rights for all humans at the annual March for Life in Westminster starting at **1.30 pm** next **Saturday, 6 September** and ending in Parliament Square. For further information, see www.marchforlife.co.uk or the flyers at the back of church.