



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



21 September 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

£1,377.24

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

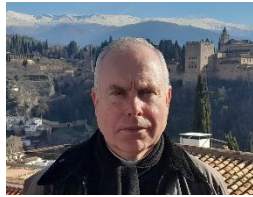
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Jack Harsley**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: It can read as one of Jesus's stranger parables. Is Our Lord really commending the manager in the parable for his dishonesty? We need to read on. That isn't what Jesus is doing at all. Rather, He is making a comparison. He is pointing at the effort and ingenuity with which people manage their financial and secular affairs. He then challenges His audience and us by asking whether we give anything like as much effort and attention to our spiritual lives. Yet money and possessions are passing; the spiritual life concerns that which is eternal. In 2,000 years, matters have only gone in one direction. We are more and more distracted by material goods which, although necessary, are secondary. We need to assess and focus on what is truly important.

Gaudium Evangelii Appeal

Today is Gaudium Evangelii ('the joy of the Gospel') Sunday. We consider our role as missionary disciples in our own country. What can we do to make the joy of the Gospel a living reality for more and more of our fellow citizens? There will be a second collection at the end of Mass to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate in the task of evangelisation.

Catholic Secondary School Applications

I am available in the Parish House to sign priest references for Catholic secondary school applications (including VI Form transfers): **2-4.30 pm, next Saturday, 27 September and 6-8.30 pm, Monday, 13 October.** The parent/carer who attends Mass here and child should attend. Please bring the Certificate of Catholic Practice (one per school, having completed your child's details) and your child's baptism certificate (if the baptism did not take place here). There is **an appointment system**. To book an appointment, please E-Mail Jack, the catechist, at shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk letting him know which date(s) you can make. He will E-Mail you to confirm the time. In seeking a reference, you are asking the priest to confirm whether you have attended Mass each Sunday here over a number 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. (Primary school references will be offered later in the year.)

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? RCIA

In the past the sacraments of baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion 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. 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 me at markvickers@rcdow.org.uk There are yellow leaflets with further details at the back of church.

The Bible Timeline Course

Many people have benefited from The Bible Timeline Course, which allows participants to grasp, often for the first time, the bigger picture of the Bible, from Genesis through to Revelation. The creator, Jeff Cavins, has given Mauro Iannicelli permission to present the programme online for free over eight Wednesday evenings, starting at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 1 October. For further information or to register, please visit the website: www.comeandsee.org or see the poster at the back of church.

Ss. Pier Giorgio Frassati & Carlo Acutis

Earlier this month the Pope canonised two modern young saints, Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis. There are booklets giving brief biographies of the two new saints in the repository at the back of church.

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 meets in the Parish House basement at 4.45 pm on Fridays. All welcome.

Food Bank

Thank-you for your donations. Please keep them coming. They are a lifesaver to many families. The food bank welcomes non-perishable foods, toiletries, laundry and cleaning products. (No clothes, books or electrical goods, please.)

Readings at Sunday Mass

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13

Psalm 113 Response: Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Alleluia.

Church cleaning: Saturday 27 September: Catherine, Carmelina & Gina.

Mass Intentions for Week: 20 - 28 September 2025

Saturday, 20 September	18.00	Pro populo
Sunday, 21 September	9.15	Ruby Roach, int.
	11.00	Mary Sweeney, Anniv.
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP
Monday, 22 September	9.30	Aidan Friedberg, int.
Tuesday, 23 September	9.30	Tom Rix, RIP
<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>		
Wednesday, 24 September	7.00	Ralston & Ann Marie Amada, RIP
<i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>		
Thursday, 25 September	19.00	Ken Goodwin, RIP
Friday, 26 September	9.30	Tom Rix, RIP
Saturday, 27 September	9.30	Norah Brick, Anniv.
<i>St Vincent de Paul</i>		
	18.00	Gleeson family, RIP
Sunday, 28 September	9.15	Lilian Byrne, RIP
	11.00	Alex Wallis, RIP
	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.

Annual Mass Count

The annual Mass count takes place today and over the next three Sundays. Last year there was an average of 545 people at Mass here each Sunday, making this one of the larger parishes in the area. Numbers are gradually returning to the pre-pandemic levels and the age profile seems to be getting younger. This is all very encouraging. We shall see whether that trend is continuing.

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 in school Year 3 or above. 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**. Green application forms are available at the back of church.

Commitment

'Making a decision and sticking by it in difficult times is the very heart of the matter ... And this involves building up a rich pattern of supernatural motivation which has to become your very own ... Openness to every "possibility" is, as you recognise, truly perilous: to have an endless series of options is really to have no options, because you never embrace any one of them with your whole heart. You postpone really giving yourself – which is ultimately the source of all happiness. God invites us ... to build a concrete life rather than to fantasise about innumerable possible lives ...' Sr. Mary David Totah, O.S.B.

9.15 am Mass

It is great that we have so many young families attending the parish, especially the 9.15 am Mass. They are extremely welcome, and a great sign of hope. It isn't easy to practise faith as a family. Older parishioners need to be tolerant at times. Equally, there may be times when families find it helpful to make use of the porch area at the back of church or to bring soft toys for children to play with. Please keep an eye on children around the candle stands. Thank-you for your understanding.