



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



30 November 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

First Sunday of Advent - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: The reason for the season? The season we start today is Advent, not Christmas – that is almost four weeks away. We are not yet celebrating the birth of Christ, but silently, spiritually anticipating His coming. Without this preparation, and restraint, we miss out on the full meaning and joy which God wants us to experience at the Nativity. How do we prepare? By refusing to be overwhelmed by secular expectations of excess shopping and partying. By giving time for prayer, adoration, reflection with Scripture. The Advent liturgy has a beauty of its own. Can we get to daily Mass during the week? The candlelit Rorate Mass is a particularly poignant moment. Choices like these help us to celebrate Christmas fully when it finally arrives.

Rite of Acceptance

Please pray for Nykila, Taylor, Raushan, Talitha, Molly, Tereza, Ellie and Jaydeep, formally enrolled on the RCIA programme at the 11 am Mass today as they prepare for sacraments next Easter – also for Louise, who is away this weekend.

Rorate Mass

Our annual Rorate Mass at **7.00 am on Wednesday, 10 December** – a chanted Mass by candlelight. A beautiful preparation in company with Our Lady for the coming of the Christ Child. You are invited to the Parish House basement subsequently for coffee and croissants.

Confession

Part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas should be to make use of the sacrament of Confession. In addition to the normal Confession times (5.15-5.45 pm on Saturdays and for an hour after the Sunday evening Mass, a visiting priest, Fr. Gerard Sheehan, will be available to hear Confessions at all four Sunday Masses on the weekend of **13/14 December**.

Advent Calendars

Please help yourselves to one of the Advent calendars at the back of church. They are Advent calendars with a difference. Each day the calendar suggests an item we collect for the needy. When we arrive at Christmas, please bring your donations here and they will be distributed to the 130 families relying on the food bank in White City parish.

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available again in the Parish House for priest references for primary school applications: **6-8 pm on Monday, 8 December**; and **6-7 pm on Friday, 9 January**. The parent/carer who attends Mass here should attend. Please bring the Certificate of Catholic Practice (one per school, having completed your child's details) and their 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 indicating which of these sessions you can attend. He will confirm the time. In seeking a reference, you are asking the priest to confirm that your child is a baptised Catholic and you have attended Mass here each Sunday over a number of years. If you have recently moved to the parish or attend Mass more regularly elsewhere, it makes sense to seek a reference from that other parish.

Confirmation

Bishop Jim Curry will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation here at **12 noon on Saturday, 20 June 2026**. The programme is for those in school Year 9+ attending Mass here each Sunday. It begins with a parents' meeting in church at **7.30 pm on Monday, 2 February**. From **Monday, 9 February**, the young people meet on Monday evenings in school term time with a day retreat on **Saturday, 25 April**. There are application forms and programmes at the back of church. Please return the application form with the fee of £50 and, if not baptised here, a copy of their baptism certificate.

Last week's collection

£1,356.46

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 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

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14a Matthew 24:37-44

Psalm 122 Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.**

Church cleaning: Friday, 5 December: Rose, Carmelina & Arnaud.

Year A - Volume 1, 82-84

Mass Intentions for Week: 29 November - 7 December 2025

Saturday, 29 November	18.00	Kathleen Nee, int.
Sunday, 30 November	9:15	Junior & Kelvin Lewis, RIP
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Mary & Michael Sweeney, RIP
	18.00	Pro populo
Monday, 1 December	9.30	Canons John Formby & Reggie Fuller, RIP
Tuesday, 2 December	9.30	Holy Souls
Wednesday, 3 December	7.00	O. M. members, int.
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>		
Thursday, 4 December	19.00	Thomas Murphy, Anniv.
Friday, 5 December	9.30	Bridie Murphy, int.
Saturday, 6 December	9.30	Pat Costello, RIP
	18.00	Vida Zabavnik, RIP
Sunday, 7 December	9:15	Pro populo
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Bridget Costello, RIP
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP

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.

Marriage Preparation

Catholics should marry in church to receive God's graces and blessings which we need for married and family life to flourish. Whether you plan marrying in the UK or overseas in 2026, there is a certain amount of documentation and preparation to be undertaken here. It is relatively straight forward provided a start is made at an early stage. If you plan to marry in 2026, please speak to Fr. Mark. One of the requirements is attendance at a marriage preparation course. We will have a course here over two afternoons, **2-5 pm, Saturday, 31 January** and **7 February**. This is the only course we will provide in the parish in 2026, although it may be possible to attend courses elsewhere.

Church Cleaning

We are blessed with a beautiful church and are very grateful to the team of volunteers who keep us clean and tidy. Please let me know whether you might be able to join the rota. The commitment would be for an hour or so once a month on a Friday or Saturday morning.

Church Sound System

Thank-you for those who offered feedback on the church sound system. A sound engineer will visit to see if we can improve the quality of the system.

Sunday morning tea and coffee

Tea and coffee are available in the Parish House basement after the 9.15 am Mass on Sunday mornings. It is greatly valued by those who attend. You are very welcome to join them. Thank-you to the volunteers who make this possible. Are there others who might be willing to join the rota? The commitment is to one Sunday morning a month. If you can help, please contact Amelia on 07800 529982.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

From the First Sunday of Advent until the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February, the anthem to Our Lady sung at the 11 am Mass changes from the *Salve Regina* to the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, 'Loving Mother of the Redeemer.' Copies are available at the back of church – or 38A in the newer hymn books.