



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



21 December 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

£1,268.07

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

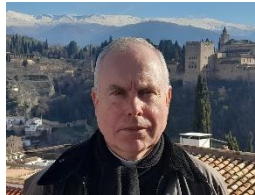
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Jack Harsley**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: The final few days of Advent are spent in the company of Our Lady, as they should be. Even if the account is presented from St. Joseph's perspective in Matthew's Gospel, it still concerns the holy Mother and her role in God's loving plan for our salvation. Let us thank Mary that she said 'Yes' to God's invitation – and also St. Joseph that he trusted Mary and protected the Mother and Child. There must have been plenty of questions remaining, and the practical difficulties and dangers, but we are Christians and have access to God because a couple chose to welcome Christ into their lives. Let us prepare to do likewise.

Welcome

Congratulations to Bella Dekyi, who is baptised this weekend.

Advent Calendars

If you took one of the Advent calendars, you are welcome to bring to church the items you collected. If you bring these before Tuesday, they will be given to the White City parish food bank for Christmas.

Tea and Coffee/Children's Liturgy Group

You are very welcome to join us for tea and coffee in the Parish House basement after the 9.15 am Mass on Sundays. volunteers are taking a break next Sunday and will return on Sunday, 4 January.

The Children's Liturgy group at the 9.15 am Mass resumes on Sunday, 11 January.

Christmas Offerings

The envelopes at the back of church are for Christmas offerings to the parish. (If you are in the envelope system, you have one already in your box.) In the past, Christmas offerings were a personal gift to the priests of the parish. Like most priests today, I make Christmas and Easter offerings over to the parish in return for a fixed salary. There is still, however, an advantage in using the envelope. Anything given in this way remains for the benefit of our parish, whereas 1/3 of the Sunday collection goes to the Diocese.

Icon

Some of you may know Fr. Juan Sola, the assistant priest at Brook Green who spent time here while at seminary. He is also a talented icon painter and has very kindly given us the large icon of the Holy Trinity (loosely based on that by Rublev) which he painted. It is now installed in the Parish House basement. Feel free to take a look, to admire and to pray with it.

Crib Offerings

The basket by the Crib is for offerings to the Catholic Children's Society. It helps local families struggling to put food on the table, keep warm, and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib or via the website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Thank-you for your generosity.

Christmas Mass Times

Wed., 24 December

Christmas Eve

7.00 am Mass of the day

6.00 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.00 pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols from 10.30 pm)

Thurs., 25 December

Christmas Day

9.15 & 11.00 am Masses of Christmas Day

No 6 pm Mass

Fri., 26 December

St. Stephen's Day

12 noon Mass for the Feast of St. Stephen

A professional choir will sing the Haydn *Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo* and motets for St. Stephen's Day at 12 noon on Friday. St. Stephen is the patron saint of our parish and of altar servers. It would be good if as many as possible serve at that Mass.

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
shepherdsbushg@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 Scripture group has paused for the Christmas holidays and resumes at 4.45 pm on Friday, 9 January.

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 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

Psalm 24 Response: Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel - which means, God with us.
Alleluia.**

Church cleaning: Saturday, 27 December: Alexandra & Michelle.

Mass Intentions for Week: 20 - 28 December 2025

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| Saturday, 20 December | 18.00 | Gleeson family, RIP |
| Sunday, 21 December | 9:15 | Annie & Yvonne Bernard, RIP |
| <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> | 11:00 | Paul McCarthy, Anniv. |
| | 18.00 | Pro populo |
| Monday, 22 December | 9.30 | Joy Healy, int. |
| Tuesday, 23 December | 9.30 | Sheila Phelan & family, int. |
| Wednesday, 24 December | 7.00 | Pat Toland, int. |
| | 18.00 | Gleeson Family, RIP |
| | 23.00 | Pro populo |
| Thursday, 25 December | 9.15 | Holy Souls |
| <i>Christmas Day</i> | 11.00 | Joe, Mark, Mary & Joseph Davenport, RIP |
| Friday, 26 December | 12.00 | Liam Pollard, Anniv. |
| <i>St Stephen</i> | | |
| Saturday, 27 December | 9.30 | Bernie O'Connell, RIP |
| <i>St John the Evangelist</i> | | |
| | 18.00 | Pro populo |
| Sunday, 28 December | 9:15 | Isaac Amada, Anniv. |
| <i>Holy Family</i> | 11:00 | Danny Brophy, RIP |
| | 18.00 | Baby Williamson-Friedberg, RIP |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Pasquale de Stefano, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Georgie Ivors, 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.

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available for priest references for primary school applications **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 baptism certificate (if their 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 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 Curry will celebrate Confirmation here at **12 noon on Saturday, 20 June 2026**. The programme is for those in school Year 9+ attending Sunday Mass here. 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.