



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



7 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

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

Second Sunday of Advent - Year A



time to implement this vision, to reward each one according to our deeds.

Fr. Mark writes: Both the prophet Isaiah and the psalmist offer a beautiful vision of peace, restitution and reconciliation. This is how it can be – world without war, hatred and greed. The coming of the Christ Child at Christmas is God's decisive intervention to ensure that this vision does not remain at the level of a dream. For it to be achieved, it requires us to accept with reservation the coming of Christ into our lives today. For He will come in glory at the end of

Vigil Mass

We welcome Bishop Michael Campbell to the 6.00 pm Mass this Saturday evening. Congratulations to James Burn, whom Bishop Michael is confirming.

Rorate Mass

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

Confession

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

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available in the Parish House for priest references for primary school applications: **6-8 pm** tomorrow **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 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 indicating which of the 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.

Christmas Offerings

The attached envelope is 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.

Christmas Mass Times

Wed., 24 December

Christmas Eve

9.30 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 Mass for St. Stephen's Day. St. Stephen is the patron saint of our parish and of altar servers. It would be good if as many as possible serve on 26 December.

Last week's collection

£1,230.87

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 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12
Psalm 72 Response: In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.
Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**
**Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**
Alleluia.
Church cleaning: Saturday, 13 December: Catherine, Carmelina & Gina.

Year A - Volume 1, 85-88

Mass Intentions for Week: 6 - 14 December 2025

Saturday, 6 December	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
Monday, 8 December	9.30	Margaret Carey, int.
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>		
Tuesday, 9 December	9.30	Day family, int.
Wednesday, 10 December	7.00	Ellen White, Anniv.
Thursday, 11 December	19.00	Kitty O'Dwyer, RIP
Friday, 12 December	9.30	Eileen Howley, RIP
Saturday, 13 December	9.30	Mary Costello, RIP
<i>St Lucy</i>		
	18.00	Tom Cooke, RIP
Sunday, 14 December	9:15	Sabrina & Ena Jordan, int.
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Stephen O'Connor, Anniv.
	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.

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 having a general clean of the church in preparation for Christmas from **10.00 am on Saturday, 20 December**. If you are able to join us armed with brush, polish and duster, your help would be very welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to join the cleaning rota. The commitment would be for an hour or so once a month on a Friday or Saturday morning. Please let me know if you can help.

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.

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.