



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



11 January 2026

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

Baptism of the Lord - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: St Peter tells us how at His baptism 'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power'. In addition to the forgiveness of sin, the Holy Spirit is God's gift to us at baptism. In the chaos of the world situation, possibly also the confusion of our own lives, how much we need the power of the Holy Spirit. More than ever, we need wisdom, courage and gentleness. If we have been baptised, we have received the Holy Spirit already. (Of course, adults should also be confirmed so that we enjoy the fulness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.) Then we activate the gifts of the Spirit by living lives in accordance with our faith, frequent reception of Holy Communion and Confession, and explicit prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for His help, for Him to be active in our lives. Today let us thank God for the great gift of our own baptism and resolve to live more fully the vows made then and renewed at our Confirmation.

White Flower Appeal 2026

Today the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) holds its annual appeal. SPUC exists to transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes unthinkable. SPUC is actively leading the fight in courts, education and culture to achieve this. Through these efforts and prayer, we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The postcards at the back of church allow supporters to join the fightback campaign against the current threats to expand abortion and allow assisted suicide. Please be as generous to help SPUC at this critical time.

Children's Liturgy Group

The Children's Liturgy group meets during the 9.15 am Mass. It is for children between Reception and Year 3. Under the supervision of parent volunteers, they listen to the Scriptures in age-appropriate language and engage in activities. They resume this Sunday after their Christmas break.

First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion children celebrate their First Confessions in church at **2.00 pm** this **Saturday, 17 January**. There is a meeting for parents in church at **7.30 pm** on **Monday, 19 January**.

'Leo from Chicago' Curry Club

It is eight months since the election of Pope Leo. We sense that he is a good, spiritual man, but perhaps we do not know a great deal about him. This hour-long documentary gives a fascinating insight into his background. We will show it in the Parish House basement at **4.00 pm** next **Sunday, 18 January**. Tea and coffee available from 3.45 pm.

Catholic Curry Club

The Catholic Curry Club, for dads with children of primary school age or under, meets monthly. The next meeting is at **8.00 pm** on **Thursday, 22 January**. Fr. Juan Sola is the assistant priest at Holy Trinity, Brook Green. He is also a talented painter of icons – he painted the icon in the Parish House basement. He will speak to us about painting icons and their spiritual significance. For further information and to place your curry order, please contact Dario at darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Westminster Year Book

The 2026 directory contains information concerning all priests, parishes, Mass times and Catholic schools in the diocese. Copies are available from the shop at the back of church for £5.50.

Last week's collection

£1,241.59

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

The Sunday Scripture 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 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17

Psalm 29 Response: The LORD will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.
Alleluia.**

Church cleaning: Saturday, 17 January: Catherine, Carmelina & Gina.

Mass Intentions for Week: 10 - 18 January 2026

Saturday, 10 January	18.00	John Keane, Anniv.
Sunday, 11 January	9:15	Paul Farrell, RIP
<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	11:00	Special int.
	18.00	Pro populo
Monday, 12 January	7.00	Darinka Zabavnik, RIP
Tuesday, 13 January	9.30	Breda Marko, RIP
Wednesday, 14 January	7.00	Voja Jankovich, RIP
Thursday, 15 January	19.00	Leposa Jankovich, RIP
Friday, 16 January	9.30	Vocations
Saturday, 17 January	9.30	Holy Souls
<i>St Anthony, Abbot</i>		
	18.00	Elaine Burke, int.
Sunday, 18 January	9:15	Colin Ryan, Anniv.
	11:00	Andrew Forkin, Anniv.
	18.00	Pro populo

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Pasquale de Stefano, James Gerraghty, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Georgie Ivors, Marilyn McDonald, Maria Nicholls, John O'Neill, Milly Redhead, Jay St. Clair, Mary St. Pierre, 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.

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 completed application form by the end of the month with the fee of £50 and, if not baptised here, a copy of their baptism certificate.

Baptism

The Baptism of the Lord encourages us to think of the gift of the sacrament of baptism today. Baptism is crucial: through baptism Jesus becomes part of our lives and we part of His, what Jesus gained for us on the Cross is applied to the individual believer, we become children of God, we receive the Holy Spirit, what is wrong in the human condition is put right, we become members of the Church, the gates of heaven are thrown open to us. Because baptism is so open, the Church urges parents to bring their children to the sacrament in the first weeks of their life.

Baptism is about neither a cultural tradition nor school applications, but a living relationship with the Lord. Therefore, at least one of the parents must be a baptised, Mass-going Catholic themselves. Likewise, godparents should also be practising Catholics. For a first child, parents should attend a baptism preparation programme prior to the baptism. (This is not necessary for subsequent children.) We reflect on the meaning of baptism and Catholic family life. Let me know if there are any families looking for the baptism of a first child currently and we get dates in the diary for baptism preparation sessions.