



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



4 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

Last week's collection

£834.96

Thank-you

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Vickers

Parish Secretary: Sherry Samele

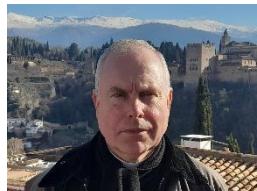
Catechetical Co-ordinator: Jack Harsley

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Second Sunday after the Nativity - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: We are not too late to make our New Year's resolution. What resolutions will we make for our spiritual lives? The commitment to Sunday Mass is there already. Can we perhaps commit to Mass at least once during the week – on a Wednesday or Saturday morning, or Thursday evening, if we are working? Can we make the celebration of the sacrament of Confession a regular part of our lives, say at least monthly? Where does personal prayer feature? Again, it is important to commit to a specific time and period each day to ensure that this actually happens. Can I give of my time to volunteer for the parish or charity, or perhaps make a regular financial commitment? *Magnificat* is a wonderful resource, a monthly booklet giving the daily Scripture readings, prayers and reflections. Details of how to subscribe can be found at www.magnificat.com All by themselves small, practical steps, but the means of allowing us to draw closer to God over the coming twelve months.

Tea and Coffee/Children's Liturgy Group

There is tea and coffee after the 9.15 am Mass again in the Parish House basement after the Christmas break. You are very welcome to join us.

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

Daily Mass Times

This **Tuesday, 6 January** is the Feast of the Epiphany, a holy day of obligation when all Catholics are expected to be at Mass. There are Masses here at **9.30 am and 7.00 pm**.

We welcome the children from the Good Shepherd School who will be joining us for the **9.30 am** Mass this **Friday, 9 January**.

Ravi Visvanathan, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ravi Visvanathan. His funeral Mass will be at **9.30 am** this **Wednesday, 7 January**. (This takes the place of the 7.00 am parish Mass.)

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.

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.

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available for the final session for priest references for primary school applications **6-7 pm** this **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.

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 Breninkmeijer
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 Scripture group has paused for the Christmas holidays and resumes at 4.45 pm this 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

Sirah 24:1-2, 8-12 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 John 1:1-18

Psalm 147 Response: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world
Alleluia.

Church cleaning: Saturday, 10 January: Harriet & Nancy.

Mass Intentions for Week: 3 - 11 January 2026

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|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday, 3 January | 18.00 | Genevieve Garniez, Anniv. |
| Sunday, 4 January | 9:15 | Pro populo |
| <i>Second Sunday after the Nativity</i> | 11:00 | Brian Hanley, Anniv. |
| | 18.00 | Jordan Hawthorne, int. |
| Monday, 5 January | 9.30 | Holy Souls |
| Tuesday, 6 January | 9.30 | Franceska Zabavnik, RIP |
| <i>The Epiphany</i> | 19.00 | Angella Kahairwe Vivian, RIP |
| Wednesday, 7 January | 9.30 | Ravi Visvanathan, RIP: Funeral |
| Thursday, 8 January | 19.00 | Herbert & Margaret Read, RIP |
| Friday, 9 January | 9.30 | Una Byron, int. |
| Saturday, 10 January | 9.30 | Michael, Sinead & Dawn Carey, RIP |
| | 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 |

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, Marie St. Pierre, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents.

White Flower Appeal 2026

Next weekend the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal. SPUC exists to transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes unthinkable. The Society is actively leading the fight in courts, education and culture to achieve this objective. Through these efforts and through 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 in Parliament to expand abortion and allow assisted suicide. Your support means everything to us. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC at this critical time for our country.

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

His Mother and Ours

'In the Lord's desire to let us share all that is His, He wished that His Mother should belong a little to us as she did to Him – that Mary should become our Mother ... Let us try to understand more and more fully the incomparable love shining on the face of the Blessed Virgin, so that our Lady may be for us a Mother of fair love ... and of holy hope,' Fr. Joseph-Marie Perrin, OP