



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



22 February 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

£1,231.68

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

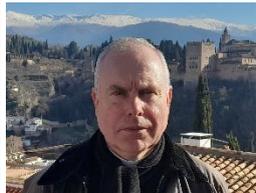
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Jack Harsley**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

First Sunday of Lent - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: It was good to see so many people in church to receive their ashes on Ash Wednesday. But Lent isn't just one day and one gesture. It is about the coming six weeks – and beyond. It is about strengthening and deepening a relationship with Jesus. As with anything important, that requires practice and patience.

Four days in, how is your Lent going? The disciplines we take on are important to enable us to say 'No' to ourselves in order to say 'Yes' to God and to others. We may not have made a plan yet. Let's start now. What are we going to deny ourselves? Perhaps we can branch out or go a little further than the usual alcohol or chocolate. What form is our giving taking? The gift of time and self can often be far more important than money. Prayer should be about developing a prayerful attitude, an ongoing relationship with the Lord, rather than simply reciting more words. Coming to daily Mass or Adoration on Sunday evenings is a wonderful way to rest in the presence of the Lord. If we find ourselves failing at some point in our Lenten regime, don't give up. The Christian life is all about starting again. So is Lent, in order to arrive at Easter.

Rite of Election

We continue to pray for Louise, Nykila, Taylor, Raushan, Talitha, Finley, Tereza, Ellie and Jaydeep, who were accepted by the Archbishop at the Rite of Election in Westminster Cathedral yesterday as candidates to receive sacraments and become full members of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. It was encouraging to see a very significant increase in the numbers becoming Catholic and receiving sacraments across the Diocese. The Cathedral was packed.

Children's Liturgy Group

The Children's Liturgy Group at the 9.15 am Mass is taking a break this Sunday for the school half-term. It will resume next Sunday, 1 March.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

CAFOD is the Catholic bishops' agency for overseas relief and development. Their Lent Fast Day is this **Friday, 27 February**. We are asked to pray and make a Lenten sacrifice by eating simply and giving generously. This year CAFOD is highlighting how donations help communities in South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh who are striving to grow food and care for their families despite increasingly severe droughts and floods. There will be a second collection at the end of the Masses next weekend – please take one of the CAFOD envelopes from the back of church so you can Gift Aid your donation, or give online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope

Archbishop Richard Moth

The installation of the new archbishop last Saturday was a very joyful occasion, full of hope. Archbishop Moth invites parishioners from all West London to join him for Mass at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove W5 2DY at **6.30 pm** this **Thursday, 26 February**.

Lucy O'Brien & Seamus Hubbort, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Lucy O'Brien and Seamus Hubbort. Seamus's funeral Mass is at **9.30 am** on **Friday, 6 March**. Lucy's funeral Mass will be at **11.30 am** on **Friday, 13 March**.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

The annual diocesan Lenten Appeal will take place on the weekend of 14/15 March to support the work of the Church in the areas of youth & evangelisation, social action, education, and marriage & family life. Your donations help young people discover more about their faith, help feed vulnerable families, support the next generation of Catholic leaders, and support couples in crisis.

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

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

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Psalm 51 Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that come forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Church cleaning: Saturday 28 February: Catherine, Gina, Akosua & Elletra.

Mass Intentions for Week: 21 February - 1 March 2026

Saturday, 21 February	18.00	Gleeson family, RIP
Sunday, 22 February	9:15	Pro populo
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	11:00	John Howard, Anniv.
	18.00	Phyllis Cooke, int.
Monday, 23 February	9.30	Holy Souls
Tuesday, 24 February	9.30	Ravi Visvanathan, RIP
Wednesday, 25 February	7.00	Breda Collins, RIP
Thursday, 26 February	19.00	Anthony Evers, int.
Friday, 27 February	9.30	Christine Cummins, RIP
Saturday, 28 February	9.30	Christy Flynn, RIP
	18.00	John (Sean) Gleeson, Anniv.
Sunday, 1 March	9:15	Pro populo
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	11:00	Michael Nee, Anniv.
	18.00	Sherry & Jo Samele & family, int.

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, Kelly Young & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents.

Stations of the Cross

We pray the Stations of the Cross together, following Our Lord on His path to Calvary, in church at **7.30 pm** on **Fridays** during Lent starting this Friday.

Lenten Talks

These Lenten talks give us the opportunity to come together with the Rev Chris Lee and his parishioners from St. Saviour's, Wendell Park. It was great to see a good number from both communities come together for the first talk at St. Saviour's last Thursday. We look forward to welcoming the Rev Chris Lee and his parishioners here at **8.00 pm** on **Thursday, 5 March**, when he will speak on prayer. This will be followed by Night Prayer of the Church, concluding by 9.00 pm. There will be further talks on fasting and almsgiving on 19 and 26 March.

Passion Play

RISE Theatre is putting on a powerful one-hour drama at St Thomas of Canterbury School, Estcourt Road, Fulham SW6 7HB at **7.30 pm** on **Tuesday, 10 March**. Rise Theatre's unique style creates a fast-paced, emotionally impacting performance to enrich our Lenten devotion. For tickets visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre or call St Thomas' Parish Office: 020 7385 4040. Cost: £10 or £5 for under 16 years. For further information see the poster at the back of church.

Confession

All Catholics should be making use of the sacrament of Confession during Lent. Confessions are heard at the normal times of 5.15-5.45 pm on Saturdays and 6.45-7.45 pm on Sundays. A visiting priest will hopefully be hearing Confessions at all the Sunday Masses one weekend of Lent.

'The Way of the Disciple'

'It is clear that as creatures we are always going to be serving some "master" or other: it can be society, individual persons, a certain powerful group, some idea we are obsessed with, our perhaps our own tyrannical and capricious will in the form of addiction to money, possessions, sex, drugs, alcohol, or simply to the thrill of power and success. Clearly, any of these can be a cruel tyrant, and we will be poor slaves labouring under its tyranny. Or we can serve Him who is "gentle and lowly of heart", the Son who invites us to intimacy with the Father by our sharing His own destiny and mission,' Erasmio Leiva-Merikakis, OCSO