



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



2 August 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

Mon.: 10.00-14.30

Tues. & Fri.: 10.00-14.00

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sun 7.00-7.45 pm

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

Funerals

For those who attended

Mass here or were

resident in the parish

Last week's collection

£1,160.60

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Awaiting appointment**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: The Scripture readings point to the sheer generosity and abundance of gifts. When we hear Isaiah speak about not wasting money on bread which will not satisfy, when we see the crowds being nourished by the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, our minds turn naturally to Our Lord's gift of the Eucharist.

That is Jesus's gift of His very self – a gift without limit, a gift without charge. Is it the fact that the Eucharist is for free that causes us to be so casual about its reception? Perhaps if a high price were placed on the ability to receive God Himself into our lives people would flock to Mass. Jesus gives freely. In return, He asks only for love and integrity on our part – to receive the Eucharist in faith and devotion, and live lives consistent with whom it is we are receiving.

Claire Flynn, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Claire Flynn. Her funeral Mass will be at **11.30 am** this **Tuesday, 4 August**. (This takes the place of the 9.30 am parish Mass.)

Oppose Assisted Suicide

The recent attempt to legalise assisted suicide failed due to lack of parliamentary time. Despite principled and strong opposition, supporters are persistent and are reintroducing the proposal. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Friday, 11 September. It is important that we contact our MPs now to let them know our concern and the strength of feeling which exists. At least Andy Burnham seems less committed to this than Keir Starmer was. The poster at the back of church has a QR code, which will take you to the Bishops' Conference website with further information and means of contacting our MPs. If you are in the Hammersmith & Chiswick constituency, the MP is Andy Slaughter andy@andyslaughter.com If you are in the Ealing Central & Acton constituency, the MP is Rupa Huq, who is more sympathetic to human life issues. Her E-Mail is rupa.huq.mp@parliament.uk

The Spiritans: Missionary Appeal

Each year we are asked to host an appeal on behalf of one of the missionary orders. Next weekend Fr. Paul Ibekwe will be making an appeal on behalf of the Spiritans at the Saturday evening Mass and the two Sunday morning Masses. Founded in France over 300 years ago, the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) are now present and involved in the work of evangelisation in more than sixty countries around the world. There will be a second collection after the Masses next week to support the work of the Spiritans.

Forecourt Project

Given we are a listed building and in a conservation area, various permissions have to be obtained in order to proceed with the work of improving the forecourt and making the church more accessible. Applications are being submitted. It is hoped that the permission will be forthcoming in the autumn, with a view to allowing us to seek quotes and proceed with the work.

Summer Schedule

During the school holidays, the numbers attending Mass here decrease very significantly over the summer.

1. As in recent years, there will be no 6.00 pm Sunday Mass during August. The Sunday evening Masses resume on Sunday, 6 September.
2. The Children's Liturgy Group at the 9.15 am Mass also resumes on Sunday, 6 September.
3. There will be no tea and coffee after the 9.15 am Mass during August.
4. The food bank run out of Our Lady of Fatima Church, White City, which we support, pauses during August. Donations can be left again in the crate in the church porch from the beginning of September.

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: 07599 503330

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

Sunday Scriptures Group

The Sunday Scripture group meets in the Parish House at 4.45 pm on Fridays. After a break for the summer, the group resumes on 4 September.

Food Bank

Thank-you for your donations. 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.) The foodbank also closes during August.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Isaiah 55:1-3

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

Psalm: 145 Response: You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

One does not live by bread alone,

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

Alleluia.

Church cleaning:

Saturday, 8 August: Harriet, Carmelina & Emmanuel

Mass Intentions for Week: 1 - 9 August 2026

Saturday, 1 August	18.00	Joseph Davenport, Anniv.
Sunday, 2 August	9:15	Catherine & Eve Jordan, int.
	11:00	Pro populo
	18.00	No Mass
Monday, 3 August	9.30	Holy Souls
Tuesday, 4 August	11.30	Claire Flynn, RIP: Funeral
St John Vianney		
Wednesday, 5 August	7.00	Fr. John McCluskey, RIP
Thursday, 6 August	19.00	John, Rosemarie, Timothy, Stephen Healy & Séan Doyle, RIP
Transfiguration		
Friday, 7 August	9.30	Nellie Jones, RIP
Saturday, 8 August	9.30	Virginia Arendt, RIP
	18.00	Ken Hall, Anniv.
Sunday, 9 August	9:15	James Oliver Carty, RIP
	11:00	Pro populo
	18.00	No Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Francis Day, Pasquale de Stefano, James Gerraghty, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Georgie Ivors, Marilyn McDonald, Maria Nicholls, Milly Redhead, Jay St. Clair, Mary St. Pierre, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? RCIA

Jesus Christ calls everyone to the greatest degree of unity imaginable with Himself through receiving the sacraments of baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion as members of the Catholic Church. This is reflected in our faith in Him and lives of worship, truth, morality and compassion.

In the past these sacraments were normally received at a young age. Increasingly, this may not be the case – the reason for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The RCIA group meets at **8 pm** mostly on Tuesdays, starting on **Tuesday, 29 September**. It is for those previously of no faith or other faiths, other Christians, who wish to become Catholics, and Catholics who missed out on First Communion and/or Confirmation when they were younger.

We reflect on what Catholics believe, how we pray, and how we live our faith in the world. It is a journey of discovery and explanation which those in previous years have found enormously fulfilling. Sixteen adults were baptised, confirmed and received here last Easter – probably the highest number ever. There are no expectations. Only if right for the individual, do they receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil on **Saturday, 27 March 2027**. Several people have expressed an interest in joining the group in the autumn. If this interests you, please contact Fr. Mark at markvickers@rcdow.org.uk. There are yellow leaflets with further details at the back of church.

First Holy Communion

The 2027 programme for First Confession and First Holy Communion will start with a parents' meeting in church at **3.00 pm** on **Sunday, 4 October**. The programme is for the children of families already attending Mass here each Sunday who are entering school Year 3 in September. The commitment to Sunday Mass – before, during and after the programme – is crucial if we are to practise our own faith with integrity and help our children grow in their faith.

The children meet in the Good Shepherd School on Sunday mornings during school term time (normally alternate weeks) and attend the 11 am Mass together afterwards. The celebration of First Holy Communion itself will be

at two Masses specifically for the children at 12 noon on **Saturday, 15** and **22 May 2026**. Application forms will be available at Mass from the beginning of September.