



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



20 September 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

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

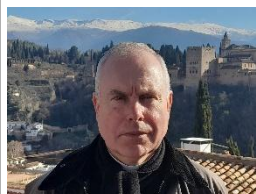
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Awaiting appointment**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



Fr. Mark writes: We move on from Our Lord's teaching on forgiveness last week to what must be one of the strangest examples of collective bargaining between an employer and his employees. Who has heard of an employer choosing to pay over the odds unnecessarily when it comes to the wage bill. That, however, is what happens here.

Jesus is, of course, is not speaking of a human employer, but His heavenly Father. It doesn't matter when we come to God – provided that we do so during this lifetime – He will reward us all the same. What He has no time for is those who criticise His generosity.

Home Mission Sunday

Today is Home Mission Sunday. There will be a second collection at the end of Mass to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate in the task of evangelisation.

Annual Mass Count

The annual Mass count takes place today and over the next three Sundays. Last year there was an average of 596 people at Mass here each Sunday, making this one of the larger parishes in the area. Numbers have increased significantly since the pandemic and the age profile is getting younger.

Daily Mass

Please note that there is no **7.00 pm** Mass this **Thursday, 24 September**. Mass on **Friday, 25 September** is at **7.00 pm** rather than 9.30 am.

Brendan Doherty, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brendan Doherty. His funeral Mass will be at **9.30 am** next **Monday, 28 September**.

First Holy Communion

The 2027 programme for First Confession and First Holy Communion starts 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 starting school Year 3. 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 at 12 noon on **Saturday, 15 and 22 May 2026**. Application forms are available at the back of church. Please return the completed forms to the Parish House by the end of the month. (Please keep the list of dates of the sessions for your records.)

Catholic Curry Club

The Catholic Curry Club is for dads with children of primary school age or under. We meet next at **8.00 pm** on **Thursday, 1 October**. Joanna Whitaker will talk about the Nehemiah Project, which provides a recovery programme for those, often homeless or coming out of prison, helping them overcome addictions and make a fresh start. Please notify Dario of your curry order: darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk

Installation

You are very welcome to join me for my installation, together with three others, as a Canon of Westminster Cathedral. This takes place during Vespers at the Cathedral at **4.45 pm** on **Tuesday, 6 October** and is followed by Mass. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate the installation, and my sixtieth birthday, at a sung Mass here at **6.00 pm** on **Saturday, 10 October**. This will be followed by a reception at the Good Shepherd School. Please bring finger food to share.

Last week's collection

£1,317.72

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: 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. All welcome.

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.) Donations can be left in the crate in the church porch.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a Matthew 20:1-16

Psalm:145 Response: The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Open our hearts, O Lord,

that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

Church cleaning: Friday, 26 September: Catherine, Gina & Nancy.

Mass Intentions for Week: 19 - 27 September 2026

Saturday, 19 September	18.00	Gleeson Family, RIP
Sunday, 20 September	9:15	Darnell & Shani Jordan, int.
	11:00	Mary Sweeney, Anniv.
	18.00	Pro populo
Monday, 21 September	9.30	Kharkiv Sumy Oblasts, int.
St. Matthew		
Tuesday, 22 September	9.30	Michael Ebuka, int
Wednesday, 23 September	7.00	Olivia McNeill, int.
St Pius of Pietrelcina		
Thursday, 24 September	19.00	No Mass
Our Lady of Walsingham		
Friday, 25 September	19.00	Thomas Lally, RIP
Saturday, 26 September	9.30	Norah Brick, Anniv.
	18.00	Mary Conway, RIP
Sunday, 27 September	9:15	Mary McGovern, RIP
	11:00	James Oliver Carty, RIP
	18.00	Pro populo

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 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 next **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.

Catholic Secondary School Applications

I am available in the Parish House to sign priest references for Catholic secondary school applications (including VI Form transfers): **6-8.30 pm** next **Monday, 28 September** and **10.30 am-1 pm** on **Saturday, 10 October**. The parent/carer who attends Mass here and child should attend. Please bring the Certificate of Catholic Practice (one per school, having completed your child's details) and your child's baptism certificate (if the baptism did not take place here). There is **an appointment system**. To book an appointment, please E-Mail Sherry, the parish secretary, at shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk letting her know which date(s) you can make. She will E-Mail you to confirm the time. In seeking a reference, you are asking the priest to confirm whether you have attended Mass each Sunday here over a number of years. If you have recently moved into the parish or attend Mass more regularly elsewhere, it makes sense to seek a reference from that other parish. (Primary school references will be offered later in the year.)