



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove

London W12 9BU

Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



1 December 2024

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

£1,250.45

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

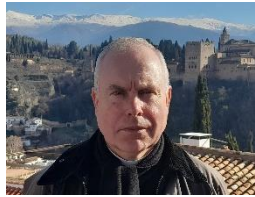
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Lawrence Dunham**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

First Sunday of Advent - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: People sometimes wonder: are we living through the end times. With wars, pandemics and suffering on a global scale, it can sometimes seem that way. Jesus foretold these things, but He did not give precise information when it came to dates and times. The message at the beginning of Advent is the same as it was at the end of the old liturgical year: Jesus *will* return with power and great glory', this is an article of faith. We do not, however, know when. We are simply told to be prepared, to live the kind of lives that enable us to stand before Him with confidence – whenever that might be.

Rite of Acceptance

Please pray for John, Tom, Joshua, Joyce, Rajbant, Steven, Verity, Daisy, Michelle, Amity, Izzy, Petronella, Slawomir and Lewis, formally enrolled on the RCIA programme at the 11 am Mass today as they prepare for sacraments next Easter – also for Keith, who is travelling this weekend.

Confirmation

Bishop Jim Curry will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation here at **12 noon** on **Saturday, 21 June 2025**. The programme is for those in school Year 9+ attending Mass here each Sunday. It begins with a parents' meeting in church at **7.30 pm** on **Monday, 27 January**. From **Monday, 3 February**, the young people meet on Monday evenings in school term time with a day retreat on **Saturday, 26 April**. There are application forms and programmes at the back of church. Please return with the fee of £50 and, if not baptised here, a copy of their baptism certificate, by the New Year.

Lectionary

From today we use a new translation of the lectionary – the Scripture readings we hear at Mass. The readings themselves don't change, so many may not notice a difference. Rather, it is a new translation of the same readings. These are more faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek, use inclusive language where appropriate, and reflect recent biblical scholarship. Thank-you to the donors who paid for the four volumes. There are new hand missals on the trolleys at the back of church and for sale in the Repository.

Adoration/Confessions

For a trial period until Easter we will move the time of Confessions and Adoration from Saturday morning to Sunday evening to see if this enables more people to attend. After each 6 pm Sunday Mass we will have Adoration and the opportunity for Confession, concluding with Benediction at 7.45 pm. I will still go to the confessional at 10 am on Saturday mornings, if anyone is waiting for the sacrament at that point. The change means that church cleaning can start at 10 am, rather than 11 am, on Saturday mornings.

Confessions

All of us should be making use of the sacrament of Confession as part of our preparation for Christmas. A visiting priest, Fr. Gerard Sheehan, is available to hear Confessions at all Sunday Masses this weekend.

Rorate Mass

We have our annual Rorate Mass at **7.00 am** on **Wednesday, 11 December** – a chanted Mass by candlelight. A beautiful preparation in company with Our Lady for the coming of the Christ Child. Coffee and croissant will be served in the Parish House basement after Mass.

Advent Calendars

Please help yourselves to an Advent calendar at the back of church. Each day the calendar suggests an item we collect for the needy. When we arrive at Christmas, please bring your donations here; they will be distributed through the White City parish food bank.

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

07746 697132

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

darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk

Young adults' group

Monthly, Sun. evenings

shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday Scriptures

Fridays, 4.45-5.45 pm

For further information:

jroberts@thetablet.co.uk

Sunday Scriptures Group

This group meets in the Parish House at **4.45 pm** on Fridays to reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings. You are very welcome to join them.

Food Bank

Many thanks for your generous donations. Please keep them coming. They are literally a lifeline to many families. We are looking especially for non-perishable foods, toiletries, laundry and cleaning products.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-25; 34-36

Psalms 24: Response: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Show us, O LORD, your mercy,

and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Church cleaning: Saturday, 7 December: Akosua, Alexandra & Carmelina.

Year C - Volume 1, 82-84

Mass Intentions for Week: 30 November - 8 December 2024

Saturday, 30 November	18.00	Kathleen Marshall, Anniv.
Sunday, 1 December	9:15	Pro populo
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Mary & Michael Sweeney, RIP
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP
Monday, 2 December	9.30	Paul Scherer, Anniv.
Tuesday, 3 December	9.30	John O'Neil, int.
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>		
Wednesday, 4 December	7.00	Holy Souls
Thursday 5 December	19.00	Vida Zabavnik, RIP
Friday, 6 December	9.30	Vida Zabavnik, RIP
Saturday, 7 December	9.30	Tadhg O'Flynn, RIP
<i>St Ambrose</i>		
	18.00	Pro populo
Sunday, 8 December	9:15	Nagammah Anne Visvanathan, Anniv.
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Abraham Somers Cocks, Anniv.
	18.00	Kathleen Harkin, Anniv.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH:

Christopher Browne, Dorothy Coker, Joe Davenport, Pasquale de Stefano, Adrian Duggan, Kay Gleeson, John Harrington, Kay Healy, Mary Hill, Sandra Jones, Anna McCarthy, Maria Nicholls, John O'Neill, Harriet Paterson, Michael Phelan, Sally Pilkington, Ella Shaw, Jay St Clair, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, Ashley Walker, Laura Walsh, Ellen White, Natalie Williams & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available again in the Parish House to sign priest references for Catholic primary school applications **6-8 pm on Tuesday, 17 December**. (N.B. The change of date to avoid a clash with school events.) 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 their baptism certificate (if the baptism did not take place here). There is **an appointment system**. To book an appointment, please E-Mail Lawrence, the catechist, at shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk He will confirm the time. In seeking a reference, you are asking the priest to confirm you have attended Mass here each Sunday 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.

School Admissions Policy

The Good Shepherd Governors propose making a slight change to their Admission Policy relating to tie-breakers. They are required to consult on this. You can find details of the proposals here:

<https://www.goodshepherdrc.lbhf.sch.uk/admission-arrangements/>

Bishop Robert Barron

Bishop Robert Barron is a hugely impressive and attractive Catholic communicator. With an array of speakers, he is in London on **21-22 February** for a two-day conference on Scripture at the Excel Centre. This is likely to be one of the best and most popular Catholic events of the decade. For further information or to book tickets (for one day or both) visit: <https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event>

Alma Redemptoris Mater

From the First Sunday of Advent until the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February, the anthem to Our Lady sung at the 11 am Mass changes from the *Salve Regina* to the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, 'Loving Mother of the Redeemer.' Copies are available at the back of church – or 38A in the newer hymn books.

Julian Pinto

Julian is a seminarian for Plymouth Diocese studying at Allen Hall who has been visiting us at weekends since September. He is now with us full-time until June.