



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

44 Ashchurch Grove
London W12 9BU
Tel: 0208 743 5196

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



15 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

£1,132.08

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

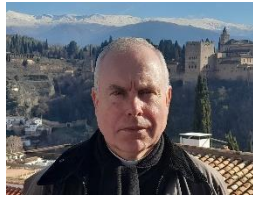
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Lawrence Dunham**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: John the Baptist is such an important figure that he merits being our focus for a second week of Advent. He is, as his father prophesied, 'a prophet of God, the Most High'. His mission is to 'go ahead of the Lord, to prepare His ways before Him'. That involves preaching forcefully a message of social justice and personal morality. John confronts people with their wrong behaviour and challenges them to change. Strong meat, perhaps, but as the Gospel declares this is 'good news', accepting John's message, coming to Jesus Whom He announces, is what gives us the joy proclaimed in the other Scripture readings.

Albert Fenner & Ellen White, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Albert ('Alby') Fenner and Ellen White. Alby's funeral Mass will be at **9.30 am** this **Tuesday, 17 December**.

Catholic Primary School Applications

Fr. Mark is available for a final session in the Parish House for priest references for Catholic primary school applications **6-8 pm** this **Tuesday, 17 December**. 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.

Church Cleaning

We will have a thorough clean of the church at **10.00 am** next **Saturday, 21 December** in preparation for Christmas. All cleaners welcome with brushes, cloths and polish. Thank-you.

Christmas Offerings

The envelope attached to last week's newsletter is 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. There are more envelopes at the back of church.

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Tues., 24 December	9.30 am Mass of the day
Christmas Eve	6.00 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
	11.00 pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols from 10.30 pm)
Wed., 25 December	9.15 & 11.00 am Masses of Christmas Day
Christmas Day	No 6 pm Mass
Thurs., 26 December	12 noon Mass for the Feast of St. Stephen
St. Stephen's Day	

A professional choir will sing the Mass for St. Stephen's Day. St. Stephen is the patron saint of our parish and of altar servers. It would be good if as many as possible serve on 26 December.

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

dariosposito79@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

Zephaniah 3:14-18a Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

Psalm 12: Response: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

Church cleaning: Saturday, 21 December: Everyone available.

Year C - Volume 1, 87-89

Mass Intentions for Week: 14 - 22 December 2024

Saturday, 14 December	18.00	Tom Cooke, RIP
Sunday, 15 December	9:15	Sabrina & Ena Jordan, int.
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Stephen O'Connor, Anniv.
	18.00	Pro populo
Monday, 16 December	9.30	Terenia Zapasnik & family, int.
Tuesday, 17 December	9.30	Albert Fenner, RIP: Funeral
Wednesday, 18 December	7.00	Sara, int.
Thursday 19 December	19.00	Canons John Formby & Reggy Fuller, RIP
Friday, 20 December	9.30	Keith Williams, int.
Saturday, 21 December	9.30	Francka Zabavnik, int.
	18.00	Gleeson Family, RIP
Sunday, 22 December	9:15	Annie & Yvonne Bernard, RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	11:00	Pro populo
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP

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, Natalie Williams & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents

Marriage Preparation

All Catholics should celebrate their marriages in church to receive the graces and blessings which God wishes to give and we need. Provided we are free to marry, the process need not be expensive nor complicated. The marriage registry must issue certain documentation. All the Church requires is evidence that at least one of you is a baptised Catholic and you understand and agree with the Church's teaching on marriage. The couple also need to attend a marriage preparation course. We have a marriage preparation course here over two Saturday afternoons, **2-5 pm, 1 and 8 February** for couples marrying either here or elsewhere during 2025. (This is the only course we provide during the year.) Please let Fr. Mark know if you would like to attend.

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>

Confirmation

Bishop Jim Curry will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation here at **12 noon on Saturday, 21 June 2025**. The programme, for those in school Year 9+ attending Mass here each Sunday, begins in the New Year. 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.

Westminster Year Books

The 2025 diocesan directory is available from the Repository at the back of church - £5.50 per copy. It contains details of Westminster parishes, priests, Mass times and Catholic schools – and much else.

The Infant Christ

'The way to begin healing the wounds of the world is to treasure the Infant Christ in us; to be not the castle but the cradle of Christ; and, in rocking that cradle to the rhythm of love, to swing the whole world back into the beat of the Music of Eternal Life,' Caryll Houselander