



Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

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

www.rcshepherdsbush.org



22 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

£1,225.80

Thank-you

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

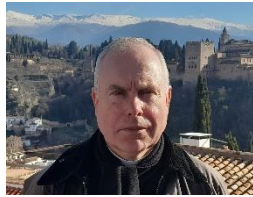
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Lawrence Dunham**

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk

E-Mail: shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C



Fr. Mark writes: We approach the end of Advent, as we should, with the Mother. Without Mary, there is no Christmas, no salvation. Mary, however, said an unconditional 'Yes' to God's request for her to cooperate in His plan for the redemption of the human race.

Therefore, there is great joy. We see Mary today already pregnant with the Christ Child. She does not hide herself away, however. Despite the unique circumstances of the pregnancy, she is eager to help her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant; she is eager to share her good news, which is for us all. Therefore, both women and their unborn children rejoice at what God has done.

Welcome

Congratulations to Sophia Cotton, who is baptised this weekend.

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy Group at the 9.15 am Sunday Mass takes a break for the Christmas period. It resumes on Sunday, 12 January.

Ellen White, Michael Phelan & Agatha Cumberbatch, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ellen White, Michael Phelan and Agatha Cumberbatch. Ellen's coffin will come into church at **6.45 pm** on **Thursday, 2 January**; her funeral Mass is at **10.15 am** on **Friday, 3 January**. Michael's funeral will be in Edinburgh, where he had recently moved, but there will be a Mass for him here in 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.

Christmas Offerings

The envelopes at the back of church are 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.

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 Mozart's Coronation Mass at 12 noon on St. Stephen's Day. St. Stephen is, of course, the patron saint of both our parish and of altar servers. It would be good if as many as possible could 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

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. After the break, it resumes on 10 January.

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

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Psalm 80: Response: Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;

let it be to me according to your word.

Alleluia!

Church cleaning: Saturday, 28 December: Alexandra R. & Michelle.

Year C - Volume 1, 90-92

Mass Intentions for Week: 21 - 29 December 2024

Saturday, 21 December	18.00	Gleeson Family, RIP
Sunday, 22 December	9:15	Annie & Yvonne Bernard, RIP
Fourth Sunday of Advent	11:00	Pro populo
	18.00	Annie & Patrick Joseph Murphy, RIP
Monday, 23 December	9.30	Felix Gomez, RIP
Tuesday, 24 December	9.30	Mark Herbert, RIP
	18.00	Tom Cooke, RIP
	23.00	Pro populo
Wednesday, 25 December	9.15	Doris Kitchener, Anniv.
Christmas Day	11.00	Piotr Lata & family, int.
Thursday 26 December	12.00	Michael, Agnes & Breda Devine, RIP
St Stephen		
Friday, 27 December	9.30	Attilio Antonio Samele, RIP
St John the Evangelist		
Saturday, 28 December	9.30	Fr. Edward Corbould, RIP
Holy Innocents		
	18.00	Pro populo
Sunday, 29 December	9:15	Isaac Amada, Anniv.
Holy Family	11:00	John Howard, Anniv.
	18.00	Hayes family, int.

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, Sally Pilkington, Ella Shaw, Jay St Clair, Rose Stanislaus, Gemma Sweny, Ashley Walker, Laura Walsh, Natalie Williams & the Chiswick Nursing Centre residents

Marriage Preparation

Catholics should marry in church to receive God's graces and blessings. Provided we are free to marry, the process need not be expensive nor complicated. At least one of you must be a baptised Catholic and both understand and agree with the Church's teaching on marriage. The couple must attend a marriage preparation course. We have a 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.

Messy Family Project

The Messy Family Project is run by Mike and Alicia Hernon in the US to empower parents to embrace their sacred calling. They are speaking at number of venues in London in the New Year. On **Thursday, 6 March, 8-9.30 pm**, they will speak on 'Growing a Family Culture' at the Good Shepherd School. Hopefully, this will be preceded by a light meal. No fee, but donations invited to cover costs. A number of parents of young children have already expressed an interest. Please let Fr. Mark know if you wish to attend. For more details see <https://messyfamilyproject.org/>

Livestreaming

Since COVID the parish Masses have been streamed on our YouTube channel, 'Church of Holy Ghost and Stephen'. This is greatly appreciated by the housebound. The camera is focused, as required, on the altar. Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion and altar servers are, however, visible in the streaming. We are required to notify you of this. If anyone has any concerns, please speak to me.

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.