



# Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost & St. Stephen

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

[www.rcshepherdsbush.org](http://www.rcshepherdsbush.org)



**8 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**

**£1.496.47**

**Thank-you**

Parish Priest: **Fr. Mark Vickers**

Parish Secretary: **Sherry Samele**

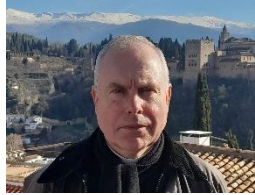
Catechetical Co-ordinator: **Lawrence Dunham**

E-mail: [markvickers@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:markvickers@rcdow.org.uk)

E-Mail: [shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbush@rcdow.org.uk)

E-Mail: [shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk)

## Second Sunday of Advent - Year C



**Fr. Mark writes:** Christianity isn't make-believe or a myth. It is a historical religion in the sense that the content of our faith happened in a particular place at a specific time. It is firmly anchored in the reality of human experience. Luke makes this very clear. He sets out with precision the time of all this by reference to the Roman Empire and the Jewish secular and religious leaders. Having located us firmly in human history, John the Baptist burst upon the scene. All is ready now for the coming of the Lord. John will prepare His way.

### 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.

### Rorate Mass

We have our annual Rorate Mass at **7.00 am this 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.

### 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 next 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](mailto: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.

### Albert Fenner, RIP

Please pray for the repose of Albert ('Alby') Fenner. His funeral Mass will be at **9.30 am on Tuesday, 17 December**.

### Christmas Offerings

The attached envelope 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.

### Christmas Mass Times

Tues., 24 December	9.30 am Mass of the day
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	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
<i>Christmas Day</i>	No 6 pm Mass
Thurs., 26 December	12 noon Mass for the Feast of St. Stephen
<i>St. Stephen's Day</i>	

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ashchurchmums@gmail.com)

**Young dads group**

Thurs. 8.00 pm monthly

[darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:darioesposito79@yahoo.co.uk)

**Young adults' group**

Monthly, Sun. evenings

[shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shepherdsbushcat@rcdow.org.uk)

**Sunday Scriptures**

Fridays, 4.45-5.45 pm

For further information:

[jroberts@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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**

Baruch 5:1-9    Philippians 1:3-6; 8-11    Luke 3:1-6

Psalm 125: Response: What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;**

**all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

Church cleaning:    Saturday, 14 December: Akosua, Alexandra & Carmelina.

*Year C - Volume 1, 84-87*

**Mass Intentions for Week: 7 - 15 December 2024**

Saturday, 7 December	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.
Monday, 9 December	9.30	Paddy McDonnell, int.
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>		
Tuesday, 10 December	9.30	Anne Cronin, RIP
Wednesday, 11 December	7.00	Breda Marko, int.
Thursday 12 December	19.00	Andrzej Zapasnik, RIP
Friday, 13 December	9.30	Eleanor Gomesz, int.
<i>St. Lucy</i>		
Saturday, 14 December	9.30	St. Anthony's Communications, int.
<i>St John of the Cross</i>		
	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

**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

**Assisted Suicide**

The House of Commons voting for the Second Reading of the Bill to legalise assisted suicide was a dark day. Parishioners have asked if there are any commentaries or statements. One of the better pieces was by the Catholic journalist, Dan Hitchens. I have put copies at the back of church. He notes that the supporters of the legislation are refusing to acknowledge the reality of what will happen if this becomes law. This isn't the end of the process. We should continue to pray and fight against this proposal. Contacting MPs can be effective. Rupa Huq, the MP for Ealing, changed her mind to vote against the Bill. Sadly, Andy Slaughter, the Hammersmith & Chiswick MP, is deeply committed to assisted suicide.

**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>

**Mums and Toddlers Group**

The Mums & Toddlers Group meets in the Parish House basement at **10.30 am** this **Friday, 13 December** sharing faith and friendship over tea, coffee, and toys. For further information, please contact Ellie at [ashchurchmums@gmail.com](mailto:ashchurchmums@gmail.com)