

The Week Ahead

Mon 17th	Easter Monday	10.00am ONLY
Tues 18th	Easter Tuesday	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 19th	Easter Wednesday	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thu 20th	Easter Thursday	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 21st	Easter Friday	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 22nd	Easter Saturday	10.00am 6.00pm (Vigil)
Sun 23rd	Second Sunday of Easter	8.30am

9.30am [*Extraordinary Form*]

10.30am [Solemn Latin] Missa Maria Magdalena Lobo;

Post dies octo *Guerrero*; O sacrum convivium *Guerrero*;

Concerto, op. 2 No. 10 *Stanley*

12.00 Noon 4.00pm 7.00pm

Saturday 13th May sees the centenary of the visions at Fatima. That day, we shall be playing host to "A Day with Mary" – a fitting celebration of one of the most important centres of pilgrimage in the Catholic world. It is noticeable how many people love to pray at the altar of Our Lady of Fatima in Saint James's.

There is a basket on the Sacred Heart altar for contributions to the **CARDINAL'S APPEAL** which supports evangelisation among young people, the strengthening and promotion of family life and social outreach programmes based on Catholic values.

New sets of **weekly offering envelopes** are available at the back of the church for those who have had them before. If you would like to contribute in this simple and regular way please sign one of the forms and a set of envelopes will be prepared for you for next weekend.

An ancient prayer in the light of the Paschal Candle: "Hearken to us, unailing Light, O Lord our God, light of single ray, creator and source of light, who hast made and illumined all things. Light of the angels, of Thrones, Dominions, Principalities and Powers, and of all the spiritual beings thou has made. Light of thy saints. May our souls be lamps kindled by thee and burning in thy honour. May they shine with truth and burn with truth, shine inextinguishably, burn and never be consumed. As by this Paschal Candle we banish darkness from this place, so, we ask, expel the dark shadows from our hearts. May we be thy home, lit by thee and shining with a light that shall never fail, an observance that will never slacken. May our flame kindled in thee – the flame of Christ - be never put out. **Amen**".

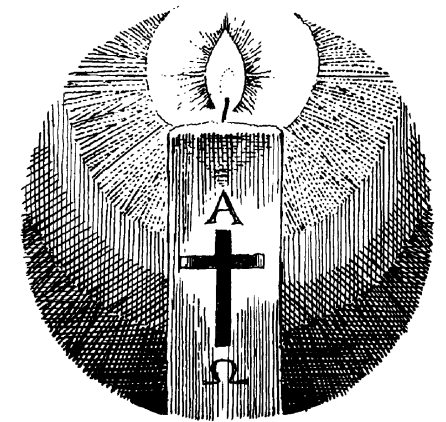
Last weekend's giving £ 3,939-00
(includes envelopes but not bankers orders, etc)

Part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust Registration No: 233699

St James's Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place
22 George Street, London W1U 3QY

Easter
Day

12th April
2017



Latin Texts
pages 77 &
78 in Parish
Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 251]

Acts 10:34.37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; St John 20:1-9

Psalm Response: **This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.**

10.30am Krönungsmesse *Mozart*
Haec dies Byrd; Regina caeli a 8 *Victoria*
Final from Symphonie No. 1 *Vierne*

Everyone is invited to join us in the Social Centre
for refreshments after the 9.30am and Solemn Mass

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend
Nicholas
Kavanagh

The Reverend
David J
Irwin

The Very Reverend
Monsignor
Francis C. Jamieson

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The Rector writes

“Nil by mouth” – “Do not resuscitate”. It sounds like an episode from *“Holby City”* or *“Casualty”* ... but it could as well have been part of the drama of Good Friday: a notice pinned to the cross: Pontius Pilate using his authority to ensure that there was no way back from this judicial execution. Weakened by torture and abuse, the body of Jesus has collapsed into death. It has been removed hurriedly, so as not to defile the Sabbath. It has been placed in a rock tomb. Those who have assisted at the burial scatter – they are shocked, frightened and grief-stricken. One of those who had been a witness to the events of Good Friday was Mary Magdalene. Some traditions identify her as the sister of Lazarus, the one whom Jesus had raised from the dead. In the early morning Mary comes back to the tomb – it is dark. And she must have been rehearsing in her mind all the terrible details of the previous hours. There would have been the nagging thought that he who had restored life to Lazarus had not escaped death himself. The jeering of the crowds must have been ringing in her ears: *“he saved others, he cannot save himself”*.

But Mary is greeted by an empty tomb – there is no body. In her confusion she runs to call Peter and John. Peter is the first to enter the burial chamber: he, too, is confused and uncomprehending. It is John, the youngest and the great apostle of love, who looks on the scene through the eyes of faith: *“he saw and he believed”*. Suddenly everything falls into place – all that Jesus had implied – all those times he had spoken to his disciples about what would be, and they had failed to comprehend his words – at last, everything makes sense. The final piece of the jigsaw falls into place and John can understand the Divine plan in all its coherence and beauty.

Later in the day, while the others have gone to spread the news, Mary will be left alone and will become the first to witness Jesus in his resurrection body. He will call her by name and she will reach out a hand to touch him. What stands before her now is something significantly different from the resuscitated corpse she was hoping for – there is no equivalence here with the raising of Lazarus. Her brother had returned from the grave to complete his life-span, in the knowledge that he must again face the inevitability of death. The life that now pounds through Jesus’ veins is eternal life: this is a body which has been transformed and transfigured. It retains its old characteristics; it is instantly recognisable, but it has about it something that is qualitatively different. And so with us. At the end of our journey through this life we do not look for resuscitation, for the continuation of what has been, but rather to begin to live in the

eternity of God. Our hope is that we shall take full possession of what Saint Paul promises to the Colossians: *“you too will be revealed in all your glory with him”*.

Pope Francis has written about the sadness of a world in which: *“God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades”*, commenting that: *“this is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life. It is not God’s will for us, nor is it the life of the Spirit, which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ”*. Anyone with any human sensitivity cannot but, at times, be overwhelmed by the scale of problems crowding in from all sides, but the Paschal Mystery, Christ’s transition from grave to glory, from death to life, ought to be a source of irrepressible joy. No matter whatever signs there are to the contrary, ours should be the experience of Mary Magdalene and the Apostles – the realisation that God wills to overcome all that is negative and life-denying.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

The clergy would like to thank you for all your cards and greetings for Easter. They wish you all great joy in the Resurrection and will remember you in their Masses during this season.

As Easter Monday is a public holiday there will be only one Mass – at **10am** – though the church will remain open all day. Next Sunday is observed as **“Divine Mercy Sunday”** and the usual deviations will begin here at 2pm and finish with the 4pm Mass.

Our congratulations to those who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil – **David, Lisa** and a second **David**: they received the Sacrament of Confirmation alongside **Sabrina**. There are more adult Baptisms and Receptions to come later in the year – we thank God for these gifts to our parish community.

We now looked ahead to the **First Communions** of our children: this year’s cohort is so large that we are having to divide between two weekends (11am on **Saturday 6th May** and 2pm on **Sunday 14th May**). The teenagers who have been preparing since last autumn will receive Confirmation at Bishops Hudson’s hands on **Wednesday 24th May at 7pm**.