

The Week Ahead

Mon 17th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 18th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 19th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 20th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 21st	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 22nd	S MARY MAGDALENE	10.00am 6.00pm Vigil Mass]
Sun 23rd	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am 9.30am [Extraordinary Form)
	10.30am (Solemn Latin) Missa in te Domine speravi <i>Palestrina</i> ; Iustitiae Domini rectae <i>Palestrina</i> ; Choral <i>Jongen</i>	12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Ethan Hector will be making his First Holy Communion at the 9.30am Mass this Sunday: we offer him our congratulations and hope that he and his family will have a memorable day.

Photographs of the recent Corpus Christi Procession can be accessed by typing www.flickr.com/photos/Catholicism into your search engine – you will need to scroll down to find the appropriate page.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's sponsored bike ride raised **£3,055** for their work among the needy, and last weekend's collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea** brought in **£785**. "Thank you" to all who contributed.

Saint Vincent's School break up for the summer this Friday – we wish everyone a safe and relaxing time, having in mind, particularly, those in the top year who will be moving to new schools in the autumn. Once the schools finish their term the Sunday children's liturgy during the 4pm Mass also goes on holiday – resuming with the new school year in September.

A novena prayer looking towards the Feast of Saint James:

"My Lord Jesus Christ, here I am close to you, bringing with me in prayer the joys and sorrows of my brothers and sisters as well as the continual happiness and difficulties of my daily journey. Sometimes I lose my way on the path of life, and I do not know what to do. Frequently I am distracted by material concerns and am in need of enlightenment, Lord, create in me a longing for you and a firm resolution never to offend you. Give me your grace to contemplate the path of your earthly life and to be attracted further by the example of Saint James the Apostle. May I wholeheartedly follow you in the path of this life and find in you peace and joy without end. Amen."

Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm-5.45pm

Confessions

Weekdays 12.00-1.00pm

Saturday
10.30am-Noon
5.00-5.45pm

***Last weekend's
giving £3,232-00
(includes envelopes
but not bankers
orders, etc)***

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



Fifteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

16th July 2017

Latin texts
on page 73

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 102]

Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; St Matthew 13:1-23

Psalm Response: **Some seed fell into rich soil,
and produced its crop.**

10.30am Missa Sexti toni *Croce*
Ave Maria Lobo
O sacrum convivium *Gabrieli*
Praeludium in E minor *Bruhns*

Everyone is invited to join us in the Social Centre
for tea / coffee after the 9.30am & 10.30am Masses.

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend
Nicholas
Kavanagh

The Reverend
David J Irwin

The Reverend
Hugh MacKenzie

Telephone: **020 7935 0943**

Email: spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

A mother gives birth to a son. The child is seriously damaged and put on life support. It is a personal tragedy for the boy's parents, but eleven months later the life of this one small child has attracted huge international interest and has been the focus for all sorts of polarisation of view about the right to life - legal, ethical and practical. The child's name is now in the public domain – Charlie Gard – and his future has aroused concern not just here in Britain but has engaged the interest of both the White House and the Vatican. We can only hope and pray that the right decisions are made, primarily for Charlie's welfare, but also for the pastoral care of his parents: to have such personal and sensitive matters debated so openly must make it almost impossible for any of those involved to make clear judgements.

Catholic social teaching has as one of its pillars the notion of subsidiarity: any decision, when it has to be made, should be taken by those most likely to bear its consequences. One of the areas which raises the most heart-searching in the case of Charlie Gard is the legal limits which have been put on his parents' freedom of action. There will be cases where other agencies have to act "*in loco parentis*" for vulnerable children, but there should be a dialogue between all those involved in a child's care from which its parents should not be left feeling they have been excluded. The Catholic tradition is utterly consistent in its defence of the integrity of every life, but this does not mean that extraordinary lengths have to be employed to maintain a particular life. Although medical science can keep a body functioning and technically alive, there are real questions about the quality and meaning of that life. There does come a point when continuing existence is no longer viable and it is morally wrong to try to sustain what should be allowed to return to God. We do, after all, believe in a continuum by which each individual, created first in the imagination of God, is sustained by his loving Spirit throughout the human journey, and is destined to find fulfilment in the eternal embrace of the Creator.

Pope Francis has been criticised by some commentators for expressing a view about Charlie (which perhaps reveals more about the prejudices of those commentators rather than the Pope who has a personal and catechetical responsibility to express his mind) but he has reminded us of the worth of every human being, even the most apparently limited, and the intrinsic right of the most vulnerable to receive care and protection from the societies in which they have a legitimate place. In his "*Commentary on the Song of Songs*", Saint

Gregory of Nyssa (336-395), gives expression to the Catholic belief in the dignity and value of every one of us: "*you alone were made an image of the Being that transcends all reason, a likeness of the imperishable Beauty, a model of the true Godhead, a vessel of the blissful Life, a reflection of the true Light*".

If Saint Gregory's sentiments are an authentic description of Pope Francis and Donald Trump, as they are of you and of me, they cannot be any less true of Charlie Gard. This little life, apparently minimal in its responses, and utterly dependant in its weakness, invites respect and love, and in its own unique way (and this is true for each one of us) mirrors something of the Divine into this world. In assuming the human condition in the Incarnation, and in subsequently raising our condition to a new level of significance in the Ascension, Jesus has established solidarity with Charlie and his family, and all those who have the child's best interests at heart. "*There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven*" (Frederick Faber). If anything positive can come from such a sad set of circumstances perhaps it is an acceptance of the profound mystery that lies at the heart of every person and, in the words of Pope Francis: "*we must not forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development*".

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

The feast of our parish patron SAINT JAMES is on TUESDAY 25th July and we shall be celebrating with a SOLEMN MASS at 7pm – the celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Robert Byrne Cong.Orat. Originally a member of the Birmingham Oratory, Bishop Byrne went on to found the now flourishing Oratory at Oxford and is now one of Archbishop Longley's auxiliaries. There are cards available at the back of church with more details of our patronal feast – please take as many as you can to distribute to those who might respond to an invitation to come along with you.

Please keep **Father Nicholas Kavanagh** in your prayers. He is recovering in hospital after recent heart surgery but it is going to be a long healing process extending over many months. At present he is not able to receive visitors, but any cards or messages you would like to leave at the rectory will be conveyed to him.