

The Week Ahead

Mon 14th	S Maximilian Mary Kolbe	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 15th	ASSUMPTION of BVM	7.15am, 11am, 12.30pm, 6pm & 7pm
Wed 16th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 17th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 18th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 19th	of Our Lady	10.00am 6.00pm Vigil Mass]
Sun 20th	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am 9.30am [Extraordinary Form)
	10.30am (Solemn Latin)	
	Missa Vidi speciosam Victoria; Assumpta est Maria Palestrina;	
	Fuga sopra il Magnificat (BWV 733) Bach	
		12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Father **Nicholas Kavanagh** is beginning to make some real progress. He is now being nursed on a general ward and is able to speak once again. Please keep him in your daily prayers.

We are privileged with a marvellous weekly offering of music here at Spanish Place, but we have even more coming in September! On Wednesday 6th at 7.30pm, Saint James' will provide the venue for a concert by **THE SIXTEEN** under the direction of Harry Christophers which will include works by Palestrina and Poulenc. Details of how and where to buy tickets will be found on fliers at the back of church. On the **four Thursdays of September**, there is to be an **organ recital** starting at 6.45pm and lasting for 45 minutes: the home "team" will be joined by other organists: again, see separate fliers for more details. Then looking into October, at 4.30pm on **Saturday October 7th** we plan a "**Choral Rosary**" with Solemn Benediction to be followed by a party in the rectory: more details will be available soon.

There is a suggestion that a **Biblical discussion group** might be found helpful. This would meet on a regular basis for what is often termed "lectio divina" (prayerful reading of Scripture). There will be an initial meeting in September & the prospect of regular schedule in October. Watch this space

Saint Vincent de Paul's Souper Ball: please note that SVP's main fund-raising event will be held on Friday 20th October. Volunteers are needed to organise the Ball and to find high value auction and raffle prizes. Please contact Bill Metcalf on wmetcalfemail@gmail.com or 07768 315 097 or 0207 724 7577

People are beginning to ask about enrolment for the new season of Sacramental programmes: forms will be available over the first weekend of September – completed and returned by 1st October.

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 £3,800-00

(includes envelopes
but not bankers
orders, etc)

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

Nineteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

13th August 2017

Latin texts
on page 73

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 114]

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9:1-5; St Matthew 14:22-33

Psalm Response: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

10.30am Missa Assumpta est Maria Palestrina
Vidi speciosam Victoria
Praeludium in D Buxtehude

*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

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The Rector writes

I have a new personal image of Heaven. For years, in my mind's eyes, I have seen the next life in terms of a Fra Angelico altarpiece in the National Gallery which shows Christ in the centre with ranks of (identifiable) saints surrounding him, but that visual imagery has now become more sensory having been taken to the recent Prom performance of Monteverdi's "*Vespers of 1610*" at the Albert Hall. The singing of the Gloria at the end of the Magnificat was utterly stunning, and if that is what can be managed on earth, I cannot wait to hear the reality performed by the Heavenly choirs! Dedicated to Pope Paul V, the full title of Monteverdi's great work is "*Vesperis in Festis Beatae Mariae Vergine*" and was intended as an act of filial homage to the Mother of Jesus – the one whom William Wordsworth could describe as "*our tainted nature's solitary boast*". From the early Christian centuries artists have used every available medium to try to capture something of the mystery of the humble Virgin of Nazareth who was destined to be raised on high as Queen of Heaven. Claudio Monteverdi marks a high point in a tradition which is represented so beautifully in our own times, and our own culture, by John Tavener in "*The Protecting Veil*" and by James MacMillan's version of the "*Stabat Mater*".

On Tuesday of this week the Church asks us to celebrate Mary's heavenly birthday. It is a matter of faith for Catholics that in a glorious mystery Jesus's Mother should have her own share in her Son's Resurrection. We believe that once her vocation on earth had been lived to its completion, Mary was taken up, in body and soul, to join Jesus in heavenly glory. The Assumption is the strongest statement possible about the value and dignity of the human person – each one of us being destined, with Mary, for life, and not for death. It is also a clear and unequivocal affirmation of the worth of the fleshly nature we share with her, and underlines the credal statement that we believe in "*the resurrection of the body and life everlasting*". As with Christ's own Ascension, it is way beyond our understanding how the material can be assumed into the eternal – as indeed it remains beyond our grasp as to how the Eternal Word could have become substantial in his Incarnation – but Mary points the way which is now opened up for each of her brothers and sisters to have their own part in the life of eternity. The definition of her Assumption also shows that there can be no easy or absolute separation of body and soul: somehow our carnality has to be sanctified, and, as with Christ's own wounded body, the experiences of this life will remain an essential part of our own future identity.

If all that has been written above is not easy to comprehend, then perhaps we can turn to the Eucharist for help? In every celebration of the Mass we believe that Jesus is substantially present. In a sense, the Word who became flesh at Bethlehem re-presents that mystery by becoming part of our time and space every time we fulfil his command to "*do this*". Christ now exists over and beyond spatial and temporal considerations and yet, as the Alpha and the Omega of all that is, he moves freely within and outside our orbit. "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*" says the Lord, who makes the solemn promise "*I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats bread will live for ever*" and then goes on to declare: "*as I who am sent by the living Father myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me*" (John 6:58). The Eucharist is key to the realisation that earth and heaven, present and future, death and new life, now and eternity, are less fixed and absolute than we usually think, and that there is an interaction, a living communion, which is experienced through an intimate sharing in the life and glorification of Christ.

There cannot be a more obvious icon of the fullness of redemption which is made possible in Christ than in the Assumption of his blessed Mother. Christ's people have always seen in her the prototype of a humanity saved and raised up to what it was always intended to be. No wonder Christian writers have spoken of her as the Second Eve, and that in consequence, "*there is no need for us to be nervous, sparing or niggardly when we honour Mary ... for it is the sign of a truly Catholic life when there grows to maturity in our hearts a personal and tender love of the blessed Virgin*" (Karl Rahner). These thoughts began with the Marian devotion of Monteverdi: perhaps they can finish by recalling that arguably the greatest sprinter of all times, Usain Bolt (like many of us) wears a Miraculous Medal round his neck, a sign of his love for the Blessed Mother.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

The **ASSUMPTION of OUR LADY** is celebrated this Tuesday (**15th August**). It is one of the few feasts left which are **Holy Days of Obligation** when everyone should attend Mass. **The obligation can be fulfilled here at the 6pm Vigil Mass on Monday. On Tuesday there will be Masses offered at 7.15am, 11am** (in the Extraordinary Form), **12.30pm, 6pm and at 7pm** (which will be Solemn with the choir).