

The Week Ahead

Mon 9th	Bl John Henry Newman	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 10th	S Paulinus	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 11th	St John XXIII	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 12th	S Wilfrid	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 13th	S EDWARD THE CONFESSOR	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 14th	of Our Lady	10.00am 6.00pm Vigil Mass]
Sun 15th	TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am 9.30am [Extraordinary Form)
	10.30am (Solemn Latin) Mass in G minor Vaughan Williams; Laudate Dominum in tympanis <i>Palestrina</i> ; Ave maris stella <i>Grieg</i> Toccata (Symphonie No 5) <i>Widor</i>	12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

**THE ROSARY IS RECITED AFTER THE 6PM
WEEKDAY MASSES DURING OCTOBER.**

Volunteers are needed to help in the Repository for one or two lunch times on weekdays. Offers of help and more information from the parish office.

A suggestion has been made for a change in the timing of the two earlier Masses on a Sunday. At present these are celebrated at 8.30am and 9.30am but if there are long readings etc. this can result in there being little or no gap between the 9.30 and 10.30 Masses – to the detriment of both. How would those who regularly attend feel about revised times of 8.15am and 9.15am? It would be good to hear your views and any other suggestions as to timing you might have.

The next meeting of the newly formed **Biblical discussion group** is scheduled for 6.45pm on Wednesday 18th October in the rectory. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

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 (i.e. holiday homes, flight & event tickets, food hampers, beauty treatments, bottles etc.). Please contact Bill Metcalf on wmetcalfemail@gmail.com or 07768 315 097 or 0207 724 7577

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 £3,227-00

(includes envelopes
but not bankers
orders, etc)

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

THE LORD OF THE VINEYARD



Twenty Seventh
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

8th October
2017

Latin texts
on page 73
of Parish
Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book - page 137]

Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; St Matthew 21:33-43

Psalm Response: **The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

10.30am Missa Surge prope *Guerrero*
Ave maris stella *Monteverdi*
Fantasia and Fugue in G minor (BWV 542) *Bach*

*Everyone is invited to join us in the Social Centre
for refreshments 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

The parish could one day have its own saint. The cause of Merry del Val, Cardinal Secretary of State to Pope Saint Pius X is ongoing – he was born in Portman Square, the son of the then Spanish Ambassador and, as well as receiving Baptism at Spanish Place, was a consistent visitor to the church throughout his life. He died in 1930. We do also have another strong link to the courts of Heaven. Monsignor Vernon Johnson, who assisted here 1948-57, was a convert clergyman whose subsequent ministry was bound up with the propagation of the message of Saint Therese of Lisieux. Monsignor Johnson was a frequent visitor to the Carmel at Lisieux where he came to know Therese's blood sisters (who had entered the same community) and many of his insights came directly from their very personal witness and their own memories.

The phenomenon of Saint Therese is truly extraordinary in that her wide appeal belies the narrowness of her own life's experience. Born into a bourgeois French family towards the end of the 19th century, she moved into cloistered life at just fifteen and died within her convent when twenty four. It is her account of her spiritual journey (originally asked of her for the obituary notice which would be distributed to other Carmelite houses) which has given Therese relevance for anyone who is genuinely seeking God. The publication of *"The Journey of a Soul"* predated the outbreak of the First World War by only a few years and - again paradoxically - many copies were found in the trenches where soldiers on either side of the conflict turned to Therese for comfort and understanding. The autobiography can be off-putting at first sight as its style and piety is that of a different age, but underlying everything is an incredible insight and toughness. As one turns the pages, Therese emerges as someone who came to know herself with great clarity and as a young woman who really struggled to comprehend the ways of God. As she lay dying from tuberculosis (which was then incurable) she was tested to the limit by the loss of any palpable sense of God. For Therese the last agonising months were about clinging onto God by acts of pure faith and her questioning in her *"dark night"* resonates powerfully in our secularised age.

Therese understood that her relationship to God was more profound than any sensual realities. Her spiritual life was characterised by a great simplicity: she could write: *"for me, prayer is a surge of the heart: it is a simple look turned toward heaven. It is a cry of recognition and love, embracing both trial and joy"*. She found all the nourishment she needed in Scripture: *"it is from the Gospels that I derive most help in time of prayer. I find in their pages all that my*

poor soul needs". Everything was centred on an understanding of the God whose loving nature means that our failures cannot offend him but rather open up deeper conduits of mercy. So well aware of her own fragility, Therese could stand before God with total confidence – there was awe, but never a vestige of fear. She took Jesus at his word: *"what father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread ... if you then know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him"* (Luke 11:12).

Therese discovered a vocation within a vocation when reflecting on Saint Paul's words in chapter thirteen of his first Letter to the Corinthians on the necessity for love. Carmelite life is lived for the world: individuals offering penance and intercession for the needs of others and their salvation. Therese defined her own mission as *"to be nothing else than love at the heart of Mother Church"*, in the realisation that: *"love is the true motive force which enables the other members of the Church to act"*. If love is our shared vocation what does this mean in practise? Therese answers that question by offering all Christians her own *"little way"* of faithfulness in the smallest of things. Love of God and love of neighbour is shown not by dramatic gestures but by transforming the ordinary – by performing *"the common round, the daily task"* in an exemplary manner. *"The Story of a Soul"* demonstrates that sanctification is not a goal reserved for the rarefied few – it is something open to everyone of goodwill, and to anyone who seeks to respond to God's love.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

At the end of all Masses this weekend there will be an introduction to the theme of this year's **CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day appeal** and the collection of what has been saved will be taken over Saturday & Sunday **14th/15th** October. Envelopes for gift aid and other literature are available at the back of church.

Contact will be made during this coming week with all those who have enrolled for the **new sacramental programmes** giving details of initial meetings – if you have signed up and have not heard anything by next weekend, please make contact with the parish office.

The Funeral Mass for **Monsignor Augustine Hoey** will be offered at Midday on Friday 20th October in Westminster Cathedral. **RIP**