

The Week Ahead

Mon 13th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 14th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 15th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 16th	S Edmund of Abingdon	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 17th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 18th	of our Lady	10.00am 6.00pm Vigil Mass]
Sun 19th	THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.30am 9.30am [Extraordinary Form]
	10.30am (Solemn Latin) Missa De la batalla escoutez <i>Guerrero</i> De profundis <i>Palestrina</i> Prelude and Fugue in C minor (BWV 546) <i>Bach</i>	12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

We have one of the two major collections required of us by the Archdiocese this weekend. This is for the **SICK & RETIRED CLERGY** of whom there are an increasing number. Please be as generous as you can in supporting those who have spent their lives ministering in the parishes of our diocese. There are donation envelopes available – and, where possible, please complete the Gift Aid section as this increases your contribution.

One of those who will need ongoing support from the Sick & Retired Clergy funds is **Father Nicholas Kavanagh**. He has now been in hospital for over four months and last week part of one foot and several toes on the other had to be removed. He now faces a time of rehabilitation to learn to walk again, and decisions will then have to be made as to his long-term care. Father Kavanagh remains in good spirits despite the severity of his problems – please keep him in your daily prayers.

If anyone can give a few hours each week to running the church's **REPOSITORY** please contact the parish office. In the weeks leading to Christmas many people come here to buy cards and small gifts and it would be good to see the shop open more often.

Those in the **CONFIRMATION** programme have their next meeting in the social centre on Sunday 19th November at 5pm and the **ADULT INSTRUCTION** group meets in the Rectory at 7pm this Tuesday (14th) November – anyone who wishes to learn more about the Catholic faith or who wants to come into full communion with the Church is welcome.

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

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time [Remembrance Sunday]

12th November 2017

Latin texts
on page 73/74
of Parish
Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book - page 152]

Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; St Matthew 25:1-13

Psalm Response: **For you my soul is thirsting O God, my God.**

10.30am Missa pro defunctis *Michael Haydn*
Requiem aeternam *Verdi*

*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

A supposedly ancient Chinese curse is that one should live “*in interesting times*”. Certainly the feeling of the moment, both nationally and internationally, is one of confusion and of a rudderless projection towards further chaos, if not worse. Perhaps it has ever been thus, but current technologies make us aware of what is happening around us with a new immediacy and intensity – globalism is a reality for everyone, whether we would prefer it to be otherwise or not. This weekend’s acts of remembrance for those killed and damaged in the conflicts of the past and present centuries underline the cost which so many have paid, and continue to pay, for the unease of our world. It is right that all this accumulation of suffering should be raised up to the Father in the obedience of his Son re-presented in the Eucharistic Sacrifice: “*Look, Father, look on his anointed face and only look on us as seen in him*”.

Just over fifty years ago (on 7th December, 1965) Pope Paul VI promulgated the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in the Modern World agreed by the Second Vatican Council. The bishops had wanted to speak about the Gospel message offering hope to the world, and the title chosen was “*Gaudium et Spes*” taken from its opening words: “*the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ*”. It is a prophetic text which bears regular re-reading and although the immediate situation that was being addressed half a century ago is significantly different from our own, the principles enunciated are as relevant now as they have ever been. There is a sound theological base: on the one hand, we need to be realistic about living in a fallen world where the forces of evil divide and frustrate, while never losing sight of the belief that he who is “*now seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty will come to judge the living and the dead*”. Despite every sign to the contrary – and at times they appear almost overwhelming - we remain a people of hope because our trust is in the promises made by Jesus who will, one day, vindicate all that is good and true.

Central to any understanding of “*Gaudium et Spes*” is the dignity of the human person and the bishops’ concern to address the threats against life: “*in spite of all the wonders of modern science, humanity, which is already in grave danger, may be brought to the point that the only peace it will know will be the dread peace of death*”. While recognising the legitimacy of civil society to govern and make the decisions that lie within its competence, the Church must not be

frozen out from the debate where it has legitimate interest: “*so that she can encourage and stimulate cooperation, the Church must be present in the midst of the community of nations. She must win this presence by means of her public institutions and through the full and sincere cooperation of all Christians, a cooperation which is motivated solely by the desire to serve*”.

The document is clear that peace means so much more than the absence of conflict and makes a bold attempt to outline those areas that individuals and nations need to remedy in the building of genuine social harmony. It pleads for justice and recognises that the inequalities in resources and opportunities are too often the cause of aggression. “*Peace-making efforts will be fruitless as long as hostility, contempt and mistrust as well as racial hatred and uncompromising ideologies continue to divide us and put us in opposing camps*”. Time and time again, the larger questions about the world order come down to the way in which each of us behaves towards our immediate neighbour: “*peace cannot be obtained on earth unless the welfare of the individual is carefully protected*”.

As we face “*interesting times*” of our own, the consequences of past conflicts, which are brought home to us especially this weekend, should bring us to the realisation that: “*peace on earth, which arises from the love of one’s neighbour, symbolises and derives from the peace of Christ which proceeds from God the Father. By his cross, the incarnate Son, the Prince of Peace, reconciled us all with God*”.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

If you wish to add names to the **November Dead List** which will remain on the altar throughout the month, and for which a Mass will be offered each weekday, please fill in one of the sheets to be found at the back of church and return it in one of the brown envelopes.

The 10.30am Mass on this Remembrance Sunday will be offered as a Solemn Requiem for those who have died in war.

A sincere “**thank you**” to those who responded to the suggestion of changes to the early Mass times on Sunday. There was little consensus among the views expressed and perhaps we will have to look at this in a wider context in the New Year. Among the ideas expressed were that the Extraordinary Form should be moved to 8am – while another respondent asked for a weekly Sunday High Mass at 7pm in the Extraordinary Form – yet another view was that the homily at the 9.30am Mass was extraneous. All grist to the mill.