

## The Week Ahead

Mon 4th	Advent feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 5th	Advent feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 6th	Advent feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 7th	S Ambrose	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 8th	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of BVM	7.15am, 11.00, 12.30, 6.00pm
Sat 9th	S Juan Diego	10.00am 6.00pm (1st of Sun)
<b>Sun 10th</b>	<b>ADVENT II</b>	8.30am, 9.30am [Extraordinary Form] 10.30am [Solemn Latin] 12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

**OUTSIDE CRIB:** able bodied volunteers are needed to put up the crib on Saturday 9th December from 9am. Please let Bill Metcalf know if you are able to help. Tel 020 7724 7577, 07768 315097 or wmetcalfemail@gmail.com

**Maria Fidelis School** at Euston invite **Senior Citizens** to a **Christmas Dinner and Dance** on **7th December 6-9pm**. Anyone interested (who qualifies!) should contact the parish office for more details.

The total raised by the parish for this year's diocesan appeal for the **Sick & Retired Clergy fund** has reached **£3,990** – with Gift Aid this comes to something in excess of £4,500. Thank you for your great generosity.

On **Saturday 6th January, 2018** to mark the ending of the Christmas season, there is to be an **Epiphany Carol Service** followed by Solemn Benediction at 4.30pm: this will be followed by a drinks party with canapes. *Party tickets cost £10 per person and will be on sale in the social centre each Sunday after the 10.30am Mass until 31st December. For more details call Lisa Proctor on 07740 798472*

### Sunday Collections

25th/26th Nov **£ 3,531.00**

**An urgent request from Cardinal Nichols:** *“Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then you need to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it: now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Please visit either <http://catholicnews.org.uk> or search for ‘Catholic Education’ in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools”.*

### Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday  
4.45pm-5.45pm

### Confessions

Weekdays - 12.00-1.00pm  
Saturday  
10.30am-Noon & 5.00-5.45pm

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



Advent  
Sunday

[YEAR B]

3rd December  
2017

Latin  
texts  
on  
pages  
77/78

**TODAY'S LITURGY** [ Parish Mass Book - page 82 ]

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; St Mark 13:33-37

Psalm Response: **God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**10.30am** Missa Prudentes virgines *Lobo*  
Vigilate *Byrd*; Ecce Dominus veniet *Victoria*

Refreshments are served in the Social Centre after  
the 9.30am & 10.30am Masses.  
Everyone - especially anyone visiting - is invited to join us.

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 Christian calendar predates the secular one by almost a month. The new Christian Year begins this Sunday – the first in Advent – while 2017 will roll on until December 31st. For Christians the cycle of annual celebrations and commemorations has a particular dynamic: although year by year we call to mind the same events, this is no simple repetition. Our belief in Christ, as King of the Universe and as the Alpha and Omega of all that exists, means that he stands at the heart of every act of worship and that, consequently, each new liturgical act involves some element which is both fresh and unique. Saint Augustine talks of the mystery of the Godhead in this way: *“late have I loved you, O Beauty ever old, ever new”*. Those words sum up the experience of following the seasons of the Christian Year, and the discovery that the Word, who is Christ, always has previously unperceived insight to offer. *“He said to them: ‘well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old’”* (Matthew 13:52). In this context it is the Church which is the chosen storeroom of the Lord’s riches and her liturgy the vehicle by which he so generously shares them with us.

It is good to remind ourselves on this Advent Sunday of the structure of the season we are entering. The theme of Christian hope for the final consummation of history has dominated the concluding weeks of the old year and reaches its climax this weekend. On the following three Sundays other themes preparatory to the celebration of Christmas and the first coming of the Messiah gradually take over. Thus each succeeding liturgical season dovetails into its predecessor. The daily readings we hear at Mass are arranged around a three year series and on the Sundays of this coming year we shall be hearing from the Gospel of Saint Mark (supplemented by the Gospel of Saint John, as Mark is the shortest of the Gospel texts).

Saint Mark shows Jesus as the great Teacher, but provides only a few actual examples of his teaching – there are no long speeches. The first half (chapters 1-8) depicts the Galilean ministry where Jesus gathers his disciples, works many miracles and shows himself to be the promised Messiah. But his messianic identity is to be kept a secret until his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second half of the Gospel depicts only a single week’s worth of time – but what a week it is. Having entered the Temple, Jesus teaches and heals. He goes on to institute the Eucharist and move into his passion and crucifixion. He rises on the third day to the astonishment of his disciples. The storyline begins on the banks of the River Jordan in

the wilderness, and then moves by way of Galilee across the same Jordan to Jericho and then up to Jerusalem where Jesus’ full identity is revealed both as Suffering Servant and Eucharistic Lord. If Saint Mark is short on detail, he is strong on message.

Saint Athanasius sums up the purpose of Christ’s incarnation by saying: *“the Son of God became man so that we might become God”*. This, we accept, is the motivation for all that the Church celebrates and teaches – the full dignity of the human person. God reaches out to his creatures in such a radical way so that he can share his own nature with us – we are invited to a personal participation in the intimacy of the Godhead – nothing less than that. Eastern Orthodox Christians believe that an icon contains something of what it seeks to depict – a kind of *“real presence”*. Our calling is to become living icons of Jesus so that the Father can recognise the face of his Son shining back at him from within each one of us. *“Christ’s disciples are to conform themselves to him until he is formed in them”* (Galatians 4:19). This is the mystery of our sanctification - and it is the journey on which we set out once more this Advent.

**Christopher Colven**

## NOTICES

This Friday (8th December) is the **solemnity of Our Lady’s Immaculate Conception**. Masses will be offered at 7.15am, 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm & 6pm. In England and Wales Friday is not a Holy Day of obligation (but it is in Scotland and Ireland).

**Leaflets** will be available next weekend listing **Christmas services**: The main times: on Christmas Eve (which is a Sunday this year) the Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 6pm (there will be neither 4pm nor 7pm Masses that day). The Midnight Mass is preceded by the choir singing carols from 11.30pm. On Christmas Day itself there will be usual morning pattern – 8.30, 9.30, 10.30 & Midday) – but no later Masses.

**The Parish Carol Service  
will be on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm.**

Excerpts from Handel’s “Messiah” are being performed in Saint James’s this Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm. Sue Perkins will be conducting the Orion Orchestra and the North London Chorus. For tickets etc. see separate notices.