

## The Week Ahead

Mon 12th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 13th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 14th	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7.15am, 11am (EF) 12.30pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm (Solemn)</b>
Thur 15th	Lent feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 16th	Lent feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 17th	Lent feria	10.00am
Sun 18th	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	6.00pm ( <i>1st of Sun</i> ) 8.30am 9.30am [ <i>Extraordinary Form</i> ] 10.30am [ <i>Solemn Latin</i> ] Missa Emendemus in melius <i>Palestrina</i> Infelix ego <i>Byrd</i> ; Quid igitur faciam <i>Byrd</i> ; Ad te igitur <i>Byrd</i> 12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

There is a **Marriage Course** here next Saturday (17th February) in the social centre. It is a requirement that those who marry in the Catholic Church must first attend some form of preparation and if this course can help you as you plan your own marriage please get in touch with the parish office ASAP.

**Natural Fertility: an Introduction.** Friday 23rd February, 7.30pm at St John the Baptist Church Hall, Purley CR8 2EF. A free evening for anyone interested in finding out more about natural fertility, how it fits into everyday life, and its potential to change an individual and a marriage. The church is a short walk from Purley train station. Contact learnbillings@gmail.com for more details.

**Father Nicholas Kavanagh** has now left Hammersmith Hospital after seven months in their care. He has been transferred for a period of rehabilitation to Princess Louise Nursing Home in Pangbourne Avenue, North Kensington. If you intend to visit him there it would be best to ring first (on 020 8962 6101) to ascertain his timetable.

At the back of church you will find **white Gift Aid envelopes**. These are designed for one-off (and regular) donations collected at Mass and enable the parish to increase the gift by 25% for those who are UK taxpayers. We have the largest loose plate collections in the Archdiocese, but are amongst the bottom end of those giving most efficiently. If we could narrow the gap between those two figures (at no extra cost to the donor) it would be a very good thing – so, please, think of using the new envelopes.

**Collections £ 3,357  
(Includes Envelopes  
but not  
Bankers' Orders etc.)**

### 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

HAVE MERCY  
ON US LORD



FOR WE HAVE  
SINNED

Sixth Sunday  
of the Year

IIth  
February  
2018

### TODAY'S LITURGY

[ Parish Mass Book - page 137]

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; St Mark 1:40-45

Psalm Response: **You are my refuge, O Lord;  
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

**10.30am** Missa Ave regina caelorum *Victoria*  
Laudate Dominum *Palestrina*; O sacrum convivium *Hassler*  
Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 541) *Bach*

Refreshments are served in the Social Centre (downstairs)  
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 . . .

When he was Archbishop of Krakow, the then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (better known to us now as Saint John Paul II) used often to visit Rome to share in the work of the various dicasteries to which he was attached. He used to stay with another Polish bishop who was employed in the Vatican. The friendship between the two prelates was long and deep but there was a cost attached. After every few visits, Karol Wojtyla's host had to change the carpet in his domestic chapel, as the Cardinal would spend hours at night in agonised prayer before the tabernacle – as with Jesus in Gethsemane, the future Pope would pray prostrate, with tears and in great agitation, as he sought to understand God's will. The worn carpets were a kind of sacramental sign of the earnestness of his prayer. No wonder that during his ministry as Bishop of Rome he would write: *"the Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation, full of faith and open to making amends for the serious offences and crimes of the world"*.

In September this year there is to be a national Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool. In the months leading into the Congress our bishops are asking us to reflect on our beliefs about the Mass. Accordingly, this Lent we shall have Eucharistic adoration throughout the day each Friday, and the Lent course on Wednesday evenings will provide an opportunity to renew our understanding of this great *"mystery of faith"*. Saint Thomas Aquinas' hymn (as translated by Gerard Manley Hopkins) says everything: *"Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived: how says trusty hearing? That shall be believed; What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do: Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true"*. As Catholics, we hold dear all that is summed up in the term *"transubstantiation"*. It is our precious belief that Christ is substantially present in the Eucharistic Food – when we look up at the Sacred Host exposed on our altars we recognise that this sacramental sign contains within itself the reality to which it is pointing. The Eucharistic presence of Jesus is an objective truth which depends on the promised action of the Holy Spirit rather than human comprehension. *"Be convinced"*, says Saint Ambrose, *"that this is not what nature has formed, but what the blessing has consecrated"*.

Our reflection on the Eucharist should perhaps be less centred on the *"how"* (which will always remain a mystery) and much more on the *"why"*. The great theologian of the Sacrament of the Altar, Thomas Aquinas writes: *"the sacraments do not act from the properties of their natural elements, but because they have been adopted by Christ to communicate his strength"*, and Saint John Chrysostom spells out the

consequences of that understanding: *"You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognise your brother. You dishonour this table when you do not judge worthy of sharing your food someone judged worthy to take part in this meal"*. Any genuine recognition of Christ in the Eucharist has to produce a more fruitful concern for those around us: the two greatest Commandments are linked as one and have to be experienced as a unity. We cannot reverence Jesus in the Sacrament of his love, without becoming fresh conduits of love to our brothers and sisters: there are moral imperatives laid on those who receive Holy Communion.

Saint (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta was one of those to see a clear conjunction between the receiving of the Eucharist and the life of charity: *"Christ's love for us will give us strength and urge us to spend ourselves for him. We have no right to refuse our life to others in whom we contact Christ ... our lives must be woven around the Eucharist ... we cannot separate our lives from the Eucharist; the moment we do, something breaks"*. This Lent, in a special way, we are being given the opportunity to ponder Eucharistic faith and the effects it should be having on our own ways of living. *"To visit the Blessed Sacrament is a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration towards Christ our Lord"* (Paul VI). Beginning on our knees, we are being challenged to renew our Eucharistic belief - and to follow the necessary consequences.

Christopher Colven

## NOTICES

There is a **Pastoral Letter** from the Cardinal which will be read at each Mass this weekend: copies are available for you to take away. A separate sheet with details of the **parish Lenten programme** will also be found at the back of the church.

The season of **Lent** begins this Wednesday **ASH WEDNESDAY** (14th February). Masses will be offered at 7.15am, 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm, 6pm & 7pm (a Solemn Mass). Ashes will be blessed and distributed at each Mass.  
***Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast & Abstinence.***

Please pray for the soul of **(Marie) Ardele Deje** who died in her flat on Marylebone High Street on Wednesday – she was 90. Her body will be brought to church on Monday 19th February at 5pm. The funeral Mass will be offered at 2pm on Tuesday 20th before cremation at Kensal Green. Pray, too, for **Charles Metcalf** (one of Bill's brothers), who has died aged 86. **RIP**

Help is needed to enable the **Repository** to be open at regular times. If you can volunteer on a weekly basis please make contact with the parish office.