

The Week Ahead

Mon 6th	TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 7th	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 8th	S Dominic	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 9th	St TERESA BENEDICTA	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 10th	S Lawrence	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 11th	S Clare	10.00am 6.00pm [Vigil Mass]

Sun 12th NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10.30am (Solemn Latin)
9.30am [Extraordinary Form]

Missa Sanctae Clarae Assisiensis Refice

Ave Maria Lobo; Panis angelicus Rebelo; Fantasie in E flat Saint-Saëns
12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Enquiries are already coming in about the new **sacramental programmes**. Enrolment will begin on the first Sunday in September and will extend until the first Sunday in October.

We have just received a legacy of £1,000 from the estate of **Percy Waite** – who was very sadly killed in a traffic accident at the end of last year. We pray for his soul and ask God to reward his generosity. **RIP**

The Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption is a holy day of obligation when all Catholics should be present at Mass. The Vigil Mass on Tuesday 14th August fulfils the obligation as do any of the Masses on the feast day itself – Wednesday 15th August – at 7.15am, 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm, 6pm and 7pm (which will be sung with the choir).

St Francis of Assisi **Catholic Ramblers** invite you to join them on their walk on Saturday 11th August. Meet at Arundel station (train departing Victoria at 9.06 arrives at 10.28). Distance 9 miles with lunch stop at The George at Burpham. For more details call Paul on 07847 282626

Spanish Place will once again provide the venue for **"The Sixteen"** under the direction of Harry Christophers during their Choral Pilgrimage 2018. Music by Cornysh and Britten and the concert will be on Tuesday 11th September starting at 7.30pm. For more information, tickets etc. look up www.thesixteen.com

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

Eighteenth
Sunday
of the Year

5th August 2018



Latin texts
pages 61/ 62 in the
Parish Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY
[page 114]

Exodus 16:2-4,12-15; Ephesians 4:17,20-24; St John 6:24-35

Psalm Response: **The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

10.30am missa brevis in F Mozart
Exsultate iusti Viadana; O quam suavis Lobo
March on a theme of Handel Guilmant

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 David J Irwin
The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie

Telephone: 020 7935 0943

Email: spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector Writes

I am not usually a great fan of Antonia Fraser as an historical writer, but this time she has produced a corker. In her recently published *“The King & The Catholics: the Fight for Rights 1829”* she traces the movement for Catholic emancipation from the terrible Gordon Riots in the London of 1780 to the pragmatic conversion of George IV and the Duke of Wellington to support allowing Catholics a place in the civil life of this country. The measure finally passed both Houses of Parliament and was signed into law in 1829. Antonia Fraser tells a good story and her narrative moves at a pace, but it still comes as a shock to realise the depth of prejudice against all things Catholic (most particularly the Pope) which seemed to have been a hallmark of 18th and 19th century Britain. The demographic of this country has changed so dramatically since the end of the Second World War that it is hard for us today to realise how ingrained this Protestant identity was in the national consciousness. As late as 1908 Edward VII lent on his then cabinet to ban a procession of the Host on the streets of our own city, and it was not until 1936 with the accession of George VI that the deeply offensive Coronation oath against Catholicism was removed.

Apart from the Successor of Saint Peter, who was always open to easy caricature, the other great Protestant bugbear (from Elizabethan times) continued to be the celebration of Mass. In our own local circumstances it is worth remembering that when Mass was offered in the 1730’s in the then Spanish Embassy in Manchester Square (now the Wallace Collection), spies and informers were outside trying to identify the worshippers. Blessed John Henry Newman, himself not unaffected by the prejudices of his upbringing, could write after his conversion: *“the Mass is not a mere form of words – it is a great action, the greatest action that can be on earth. It is not the invocation merely, but, if I dare use the word, the evocation of the Eternal”*. For the Catholic the Mass is everything - as the Catechism reminds us: *“the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life”*. No wonder that through the long years of persecution and the denial of civil rights, and at enormous cost to themselves, England’s Catholics did everything they could to see that the Mass continued to be celebrated. It does us well from time to time to visit the Martyrs’ chapel in Saint James’s and to look at the altarpiece with its mixture of clerics, noblemen, and ordinary housewives (plus the Thames lighterman John Roche) cruelly put to death because they recognised what was truly at stake.

“The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by

which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God’s sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship we ought to offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit” (Catechism: 1325). In these coming weeks we are preparing for the Eucharistic Congress which is being held in Liverpool from 7 - 9 September (the first such national gathering since 1908, and the fated procession), it is fortuitous that the cycle of Sunday readings for this same period contains Saint John’s great passages on Jesus as the Bread of Life. From the very outset, Jesus recognised that his teaching would be *“intolerable language”* to many of those who heard it and he was ready to accept that as a consequence *“many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him”*.

The Catholic understanding of the Eucharist is a wonderful mystery of faith – God’s greatest possible gift to us because it is the life of his own Son. Jesus says: *“the Bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world”*. Trying to comprehend the significance of those words is the work of a lifetime but let us take seriously the present invitation to the Catholics of this country to reflect on the Eucharist and the difference it should make to the way in which we live. *“Above all, let us pray to him to draw us to him, and to give us faith. When we feel that his mysteries are too severe for us, and occasion us to doubt, let us earnestly wait on him for the gift of humility and love”* (John Henry Newman).

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Although many, if not most, of the regular congregation are away during August they are usually replaced by many visitors. It is our policy (unlike most other churches in central London) to maintain the regular timetable on weekdays and Sundays - with the full choir singing at the Solemn Mass. If you see visitors over the next few weekends, please make them feel welcome and where necessary point them in the right direction for Mass books etc.

The Taize group meets on Tuesday of this week from around 7pm in church for a time of reflection with Scripture, prayer and song – everyone is welcome. The Gregorian chant group continues to meet on Wednesdays to sing Compline after the 6pm Mass – they practise in the social centre on Sundays from around 5pm – and again anyone interested is welcome to join them.