

The Week Ahead

Mon 8th	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 9th	Blessed John Henry Newman	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 10th	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 11th	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 12th	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 13th	S EDWARD THE CONFESSOR	10.00am 6.00pm [Vigil Mass] 8.30am
Sun 14th	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year	9.30am [Extraordinary Form] 10.30am [Solemn Latin] 12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Missa Salve Regina *Victoria*; Ave maris stella *Grieg*; Ave Maria *Arcadelt*
Praeludium in A minor *Böhm*

Last weekend's appeal for unwanted clothing and bedding for **MARY'S MEALS** brought in 480 kg worth which raised £269 (and there is a second batch of black bags still to be collected). One of the Christmas collections will also be dedicated to their work of providing food for impoverished children within their schooling.

Spain's National Day is this Thursday 11th October – we thank God for our parish's long connections with the Kingdom of Spain which extend back to 1730, and pray for the nation and its peoples.

The new **11+ group** (for those in secondary education but below the age for Confirmation) had their first meeting last Sunday. Over twenty of our young people were there – so an obvious need is being addressed.

Forms for enrolment in the **new sacramental programmes** should be completed and returned this weekend. Once the numbers involved are known everyone will be contacted with further details. If you have a child for **First Holy Communion** in the coming year – are a teenager 14+ looking to receive the sacrament of **Confirmation** get the forms into the parish office ASAP

Adults who want to know more about the Catholic Faith, or who want to explore coming into full communion with the Church, will have their own programme which will meet on alternative Tuesday evenings – again, please fill in the appropriate form which will be found at the back of church.

The **Society for the Protection of Unborn Children** has produced postcards (available at the back of church) so that you can send a message to your MP asking him/her to vote against a bill coming before the House of Commons on Tuesday 23rd October which would remove any effective legal protection for unborn babies and their mothers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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



Twenty-Seventh
Sunday
of the Year

7th October 2018

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 78]

Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2: 9-11; St Mark 10:2-16

Psalm Response: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.**

10.30am Missa Sine nomine *Hassler*

Vadam et circuibo civitatem *Victoria*; Qualis est dilectus tuus *Victoria*
Concerto (Op.2, No.1) *Stanley*

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

Last weekend's giving
£3,523-00

(includes envelopes but not bankers orders, etc)

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The Rector writes

Twice in the last week I have been called to minister to the dying. The first occasion was in a local hospital and it was intensely moving to be able not just to administer the Last Rites but to feel the warmth and affection of the extended family and to spend time with them over several days before the death of their loved one. The second occasion was in the context of an old person's own home – it was good that she was able to receive the Church's ministrations in full consciousness, but there was a certain sadness in that she had been a regular member of the congregation here in the past but increasing age and problems of mobility meant that she had not received the sacraments for many years – at the very part of her life when she most needed the support of the Church it had no longer been there for her. This double experience has brought home to me once again the importance of the Church's sacramental ministry to the sick and most especially to the dying. Although God is not bound by his sacraments, and his grace will flow where and as and when he chooses, we should do all that we can to ensure that, where possible, those most in need do receive the ministrations which are their right as Catholics.

The so-called "*Last Rites*" consist of several elements which are more or less appropriate given the condition of the individual. In the face of imminent death and judgement the Catholic would want to confess any sins which remain unabsolved and to have the consolation of hearing the words of the apostolic pardon: "*by the authority which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a full pardon and remission of all your sins*". He or she would then be given the opportunity to renew their Christian faith before receiving Unction (anointing with the oil of the sick) and Holy Communion. The last prayers for the dying include the beautiful Profiscere: "*Go forth Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you ...*"

Two thousand years of practice mean that these Rites not only effect what they symbolise (as with any sacramental encounter) but meet a profound spiritual and psychological need. Death is inevitable for every human being, and it is so very important that we use the tools at hand to manage the process of dying – we do so medically without question, but we need to approach death in ourselves and in those we love in an holistic way in which heart and soul receive the reassurance and support they deserve. Catholics are privileged to

have a whole liturgical breadth to meet the stages associated with old age and/or terminal illness. One sometimes meets the objection that a family member is going to be upset if a priest suddenly appears at their bedside but the answer is, surely, that, where possible, anyone who is seriously ill should be accompanied from the outset by the Church's ministry. Clearly we hope to die fortified by the rites of the Church but when these are put into a wider context of regular spiritual care they become the more meaningful.

This reflection has two conclusions. Firstly, that wherever someone is facing serious illness they should be encouraged to avail themselves of all that the Church has to offer sacramentally – not just "*in extremis*" but throughout the process, however long that might be. It is never easy to face up to these realities with those we love, but we do have a responsibility to one another to see that every possible reassurance is offered to those setting out on the most significant journey of their lives ... home to God. Secondly, and this is a constant source of concern, it seems to be so easy for individuals who have been faithful Catholics during their active years to slip away from the Church in the latter period of their lives. If you know of such people – neighbours, family members – please do let us know so that they can be ministered to in their own homes. "*Care for the sick must have priority over everything else. They should be served as though they were really Christ*" (Saint Benedict).

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

There are copies of two statements from the **Bishops of England and Wales**. One published before their "ad limina" to Rome (about safeguarding the young and vulnerable) and a second reflecting on the visit and their audience with Pope Francis.

At the end this weekend's Masses, the collection for **CAFOD's Harvest Day Appeal** will be taken at the main doors. In the light of the current disaster this message might help focus our minds: "CAFOD's affiliate, Caritas Indonesia – known as Karina – has a wealth of experience responding to earthquakes and tsunamis and are already on the ground in two diocese near the afflicted area. Karina are making their way to the worst-hit areas, getting emergency aid to where it is needed. A portion of this year's Harvest Fast Day collection will be used to support Karina in their efforts".

ROSARY AFTER 6PM MASS EACH WEEKDAY DURING OCTOBER