

The Week Ahead

Mon 29th	Martyrs of Douai College	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 30th	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 31st	<i>feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 1st	ALL SAINTS	7.15am, 11am (EF), 12.30pm, 6.00pm; 7.00pm
Fri 2nd	ALL SOULS	7.15am, 11am (EF), 12.30pm, 6.00pm; 7.00pm
Sat 3rd	S Martin de Porres	10.00am
Sun 4th	Thirty-first Sunday of the Year	6.00pm [Vigil Mass] 8.30am 9.30am [Extraordinary Form] 10.30am [Solemn Latin] 12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Cicely-Mary Striebel** who has died aged 92: she had been a member of the congregation for 35 years. Her funeral rites took place here on Friday. **RIP.**

Last weekend's appeal for **World Mission Sunday** by Sister Pennie MacInnes raised **£1,300**. Next weekend, sees the annual collection for the **SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS** of the Diocese – you should find an envelope with this newsletter = please return it when you come to Mass next Sunday.

Over the weekend of 17th/18th November we have a formal visitation by our Area Bishop Nicholas Hudson. The Bishop will preach and/or preside at all Masses and looks forward to meeting as many of the congregation as possible.

Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm-5.45pm

Confessions

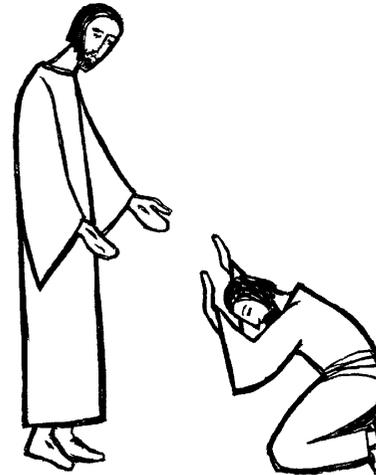
Weekdays 12.00-1.00pm

Saturday 10.30am-Noon
5.00-5.45pm

Those who have enrolled in the new sacramental programmes should have received details of their initial meetings. The **teenage Confirmandi** meet this Sunday (28th) at 5pm in the rectory. The **adult instruction group** (RCIA) meets in the rectory at 7pm on Tuesday 6th November and the parents/carers of those receiving **First Holy Communion** meet in church at 4.30pm on Wednesday 21st November.

Last weekend's giving £3,324-00
(includes envelopes but not bankers orders, etc)

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



Thirtieth Sunday
of the Year

28th October
2018

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 149]

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; St Mark 10:46-52

Psalm Response: **What marvels the Lord worked for us!
indeed we were glad.**

10.30am Theresienmesse Haydn
Ego flos campi Clemens
Toccata (Symphony No. 5) Widor

*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

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The Rector writes

One of the greatest of the English, and said to be its first genuine historian, is the Venerable Bede (672-735). From his monastery at Jarrow this Doctor of the whole Church dispensed a gentle and kindly wisdom. His thoughts about heaven give us a foundation for the coming month of November when we will be thinking in a particular way of those who have departed this life, of their judgement, and, hopefully, of their eternal reward: *“when the night of this world draws to its close, in the light of the rising Sun of Easter the saints see the brightness of the true light: and they receive a blessedness which far outweighs the pangs of any torment they could have suffered”*. One of the joys of being a Catholic lies in the sense of solidarity we experience not just with one another but also with those who have gone before us: we mourn their passing, of course, and we feel a keen sense of loss, but our communion in the risen and ascended Christ means that we continue to share an intimacy of relationship which, though changed, remains alive and vibrant.

The Letter to the Hebrews (12:2) talks of us being surrounded by *“so great a cloud of witnesses”*. By definition a witness is not just a passive onlooker but someone prepared to assume an active role, to participate, to testify to what they know of the truth. Therese of Lisieux famously declared on her deathbed that she *would have a very busy heaven doing good on earth.* Our understanding is that although the veil separating us from those who have died seems so thick as to be virtually impenetrable from our side, this is not so for those who now see us and our needs from the vantage point of God: from their side there is a transparency which is, as yet, beyond our comprehension. The French poet and social commentator, Charles Peguy expresses the longing that those in heaven have for us to join them: *“we must all be saved together: appear before Him together. We must return to our Father’s house together. What would he think of us if we arrived without the others returning too?”*

Saint Bede writes of this life as *“the starting-post for heaven”* and the challenge when we contemplate those already in glory is that, while rejoicing in their powerful and loving intercession, we should try to emulate the examples they have provided while here on earth. When Pope John Paul II canonised so many saints during his pontificate he was criticised for debasing the coinage, but he defended his decisions in the belief that people of every culture, ability and background deserve icons of sanctity – every single one of us needs to realise that the universal call to holiness (*“to live like Jesus”*) is offered in our own circumstances and with the possibility that it will mature and be fruitful. All the Baptised share a common

vocation to become saints – which is no more, or less, than God’s intention for us from the first moment of our creation. Sanctity does not necessarily mean being recognised as iconic for the whole Church, but it does involve allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives so that we become what God has always wanted us to be. *“Not all saints have the same sort of holiness. There are those who never could have lived with other saints. Not all have the same path. But all arrive at God”* (Saint John Vianney).

Although we are all called to be saints, it is good to remember that Spanish Place could well have already provided the context for someone who might be formally canonised. Rafael Merry del Val was baptised in the old Saint James’ in 1865 and he and his family were much involved in the parish: he became Cardinal Secretary of State to Saint Pius X and died in Rome in 1930 (during an operation for appendicitis). He was recognised not just for his unswerving devotion to the orthodoxy of the Catholic faith, but for his warmth and charity which sprang from an intense and humble spiritual life – his cause was begun in 1953. During November, let us ask our own Servant of God to pray for the parish and for our personal intentions – who knows if God might allow some sign so that the process for his canonisation can make progress?

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Throughout the coming month of November our thoughts turn towards those who have died and our duty to pray for them. At least one of the Masses will be offered each day for those commemorated on the **November Dead List**. Names may be added to this List by filling in one of the forms at the back of the church – they can be returned either to the sacristy or through the rectory door.

This **Thursday November 1st** is the **Solemnity of ALL SAINTS**: it is a holy day of obligation when everyone should attend Mass. There will be a number of possibilities to fulfil that obligation here: at 6pm on the Vigil on 31st October; then at 7.15am, 9.15am (in St Vincent’s School), 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm, 6pm & 7pm (a Solemn Mass with the choir).

Friday November 2nd is the **Commemoration of All Souls**, and there will be Requiems offered at 7.15am, 11am (Extraordinary Form) 12.30pm, 6pm and 7pm (Sung to the chant by the choir). There will be Eucharistic Exposition during the day as it is also a “First Friday”.