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



Advent
Sunday

2nd
December
2018

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4.2; St Luke 21:25-28;34-36

Psalm Response: **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

10.30am Mass for four voices *Byrd*
Vigilate *Byrd*
Canite tuba *Palestrina*

*Refreshments are served in the Social Centre
after the 9.30am & 10.30am Masses.
Everyone is welcome to join us.*

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend David J Irwin
The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie

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The Rector writes

“In giving us his Son, his only Word (for he possesses no other), he spoke everything to us at once in his sole Word – and he has no more to say ... because what he spoke before to the prophets in part, he has now spoken all at once by giving us the All Who is His Son”. In once sentence, Saint John of the Cross sums up the core belief of Christians – God has spoken definitively in the human life of Jesus of Nazareth, who is at the same time both Son of Mary and the “All” of God. If the divine self-revelation can be summed up in those few words, then it takes a lifetime for each of us to appropriate the message and make it our own – our life’s work is to make the Church’s faith our own faith and, in a special way, we do this by following the annual liturgical pattern. Sunday by Sunday, week by week, we follow through the events of Christ’s incarnate life and put them within the context of understanding guaranteed by the Holy Spirit *“the Church’s living memory”* (John 14:26).

The Catechism also describes the Holy Spirit as *“the principal author of Sacred Scripture”* and central to our understanding of God’s unfolding revelation is its record in the books of the Bible. For the Christian, the Old Testament is an indispensable part of Scripture as it was *“deliberately so oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, the redeemer of all”*. As an old saying puts it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New. At each Sunday Mass we are presented with three readings: the first from the Old Testament offers a theme which is often taken up in the Gospel passage and then drawn out further in one of the New Testament letters. *“But above all it is the Gospels that occupy my mind when I am at prayer: my poor soul has so many needs and yet this is the one thing needful. I am always finding new lights there; hidden meanings which had meant nothing to me hitherto”* (Saint Therese of Lisieux).

A German writer, Jochen Klepper, underlines the importance we attach to the annual cycle of the liturgy: *“the Church year makes present and portrays anew the life of Christ. It is mankind’s greatest work of art: and God has acknowledged it and allows it year after year, always granting it new light, as though one were encountering it for the first time”*. Just as we celebrate a birthday or a wedding anniversary each year, so too the liturgy celebrates over the course of the year the most important events of Christian salvation history. There is one crucial difference though, for all time is God’s time: *“God’s eternity is not mere time-lessness, the negation of time, but a power over time that is really present with time and in time”*

(Benedict XVI). In the Church's every liturgical action, and in her cycle of annual remembering, we become contemporaries of Jesus: events of the past become for us living and present realities.

The sacramental principle goes to the heart of Catholic life. Soren Kierkegaard once said: "*either we are contemporaries of Jesus, or we can have nothing at all to do with him*". It is in the liturgical life of the Church, with its celebration of the sacraments at every point of human need, that we encounter the living Word who is Jesus Christ, the "All" of God. The annual cycle is not like watching a re-run of a much-loved film or play but a genuine encounter, here and now, with the One on whom the liturgy centres. The Catechism reminds us that "*the Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice*". Many people choose to make New Year resolutions and as we begin the celebration of the new Christian calendar on this Advent Sunday, we could do no better than resolve to be faithful to the Sunday obligation. To be present at Mass every week is not just an act of solidarity with those who share a common belief but the opening up of ourselves to knowing the love of Christ and to being "*filled with the utter fulness of God*" (Ephesians 3:21).

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Saturday 8th December is the solemnity of ***Our Lady's Immaculate Conception***. Mass will be celebrated at 10am. Unlike Scotland and Ireland, this is not a holy day of obligation in England & Wales.

Able-bodied volunteers are needed to help put up ***the outside crib*** on Saturday 8th December – please arrive by 9.30am.

The funeral Mass for ***Margaret Haddad*** will be offered here on Tuesday at 11am before burial in Saint Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green. We offer the parish's condolences to her husband and sons. **RIP**

As Christmas comes closer do look at *the repository* (the church shop) where you will find a range of cards and small gifts as well as devotional articles. Any profit made comes to Saint James's so supporting the repository is a good way to support the parish.

The ***Taizé*** Group meets in church at 7pm this Tuesday, and as Friday is the "*First Friday*" in the month there will be ***Exposition*** of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day.

The Week Ahead

Mon 3rd	St Francis Xavier	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 4th	St John Damascene	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 5th	<i>Advent feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 6th	St Nicholas	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 7th	St Ambrose	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 8th	Immaculate Conception BVM	10.00am

6.00pm (*1st of Sun*)

Sun 9th	ADVENT II	8.30am; 9.30am [<i>Extraordinary Form</i>] 10.30am [<i>Solemn Latin</i>]
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Missa Puer qui natus est nobis *Guerrero*

Ecce Dominus veniet *Victoria*

Alma redemptoris mater *Philips*

12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul aims to purchase 150 X £25 clothing vouchers for the homeless and needy before Christmas. It is also being asked to provide sleeping bags. Donations in cash or cheques made out to "SVP St James" should be handed to collectors after Masses (they aim to be there this weekend and next) or into the rectory.

Friday 7th December is a day of fasting and prayer for life: for more details look up www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

The St Francis Ramblers invite you to join them on 9th Dec. <http://www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com>

This year's **PARISH CAROL SERVICE** will be at 7pm on Wednesday 19th December – it is always a great opportunity to introduce family and friends to Saint James': there is a party afterwards in the crypt.

On Saturday 12th January, to mark the close of the Christmas period, there will be an **Epiphany Carol Service** with Solemn Benediction at 4.30pm. This will be followed by a drinks and canapes party in the rectory. Tickets for the party will be on sale at £10 per person in the social centre each Sunday after the 10.30am Mass until 6th January. For further details call Lisa Proctor on 07740 798472

Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday
4.45pm-5.45pm

Confessions

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

Sunday Collections

24th/25th Nov **£ 3,388.00**

(Includes envelopes but not
Standing orders)