

The Week Ahead

Mon 15th in Holy Week 7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 16th in Holy Week 7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 17th in Holy Week 7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 18th Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper - 6.30pm
Fri 19th Good Friday - Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3.00pm
Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the Relic - 7pm
Sat 20th Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass - 8.00pm

I AM THE
GOOD



SHEPHERD

Sun 21st April - Easter Day

8.30am; 9.30am [Extraordinary Form]
10.30am [Solemn Latin]
Colloredo Mass Mozart;
Haec dies Byrd; Regina caeliam Victoria
12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Mass will be celebrated on Easter Monday at 10am (only)

If you are looking for Easter cards or small gifts etc for the coming festival do take a look at our **repository** in the church – everything bought in the shop benefits the parish.

This Monday (15th April) our choir accompanied by strings will sing **Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater"**. This is being offered as a Passiontide reflection and it is hoped it will attract many people not just to listen to glorious music but to take some time to prepare for the culminating events of Holy Week. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection to offset expenses.

Last weekend's giving £3,018-00
(includes envelopes but not bankers orders, etc)

In the past couple of weeks a number of items have been added to the parish archive: two copies of the magazine of Saint James Youth Club dated 1967 (are any of its then members still worshipping with us?): an architect's drawing of the present church gifted by one of Edward Goldie's descendants: and a (marvellous) hand written "*Vesperale*", the painstaking work of a French priest in the parish in 1813 – who describes himself as "*Chaplain de la Chapelle de la Majeste Catholique, Spanish Place*". This was donated by the executor of the estate of Dr Mary Berry (the musicologist – not the television cook!).

A reminder that the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** are still looking for a driver for the minibus, for volunteers to participate in the June 30th bike ride and for helpers with the twice weekly soup runs. Please contact William Metcalf for further information on 07768 315097 or wmetcalfemail@gmail.com

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



Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

14th April
2019

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book - page 184]

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; St Luke 22:14-23:56

Psalm Response:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

10.15am Ingrediente Domino *Malcolm*; Improperia exspectavit *Palestrina*; Missa Quarti toni *Victoria*; O Domine Iesu Christi *Victoria*

*Refreshments (Tea & Coffee) are served after the 9.30am Mass & wine together with soft drinks are available after the Solemn Mass in the Social Centre (in the Crypt).
Do join us if you have the time.*

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie (in residence)
The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (in residence)

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The Rector writes

There is a current exhibition at the British Museum devoted to the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.. Probably the most famous of his works is “*The Scream*” Painted in 1885, it seems to be a prophecy of the approaching century which was about to witness inhumanity on an industrial scale and the subject’s obvious despair is heightened by the seeming indifference of the figures that appear on the canvas. Munch’s work embodies the reaction of so many of our contemporaries who are overwhelmed by the experience of a world where everything is relative and subjective. There is much talk of the need for a new evangelisation, particularly in a Europe which thinks it knows the Christian message and has, in large part, become indifferent to it. In some ways, it is easier to proclaim the Gospel to those who have never heard it than to those who have convinced themselves of its irrelevance to their own situation.

In the 13th century, Saint Bonaventure, one of Saint Francis’s early disciples, could sum up the Christian goal as: “*the re-ordering of the human person that comes through an encounter with Christ in faith, hope and love*”. For Catholics in particular Christ is to be met directly and immediately in the liturgical acts of the Church, and these reach their culmination each year during Holy Week. Over these coming seven days we have the opportunity to draw closer to Christ – or perhaps more accurately to allow Christ to draw closer to us as the initiative always remain in his hands. Every time we gather to “*do this*” we have the guarantee that the Holy Spirit will make effective what is being commemorated. C S Lewis could speak of “*shafts of God’s glory impinging on our sensibility*”, and that is exactly what we believe is happening as we follow Jesus along the path of suffering to Calvary, and into the glory which emerges from the Empty Tomb.

Speaking about his death, Jesus understood that: “*when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself*” (John 12:32). While Holy Week offers a time for the deepening of personal faith, we need to recognise that our identification with Christ in his Paschal Mystery is a source of fresh grace not just for ourselves but for the whole world, An old Benedictine monk (now in his late nineties) felt the stirrings of his vocation when watching the first newsreels of the victims of the concentration camps at the end of the Second World War: “*I said to myself only prayer can penetrate places like that. The tanks always arrive too late, and there was still war in the Pacific to be fought. I was haunted by the need for prayer*”. The idea of reparation is not much understood today, but it is a central Christian belief that we can and must help towards one another’s salvation, and that we are privileged to do so as co-redeemers with Christ.

There is so much disturbance in our world – nations in conflict, cultures uneasy alongside each other, societies in a clear state of brokenness – and, while we are called to do everything we can in practical terms to build peace with justice and to alleviate suffering wherever we meet it, there is also a shared vocation to take up the cross alongside Jesus and to carry it for the sake of others. In the Agony in Gethsemane, God experiences the despair of a fallen humanity and Saint Paul recognises that those who live in Christ can identify with him in making their personal contribution to the re-ordering of creation: “*it makes me happy to suffer, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up what has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body the Church*” (Colossians 1:24). For 2,000 years the message of the Cross has provided the antidote to despair. Let us pray that a devout observance of Holy Week will renew our own sense of hope – and that we will be able to communicate a sense of Christian hope to those who look to us for support and encouragement.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

***Details of Holy Week & Easter services
can be found on separate sheets***

A reminder of the main times this week – Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper at 6.30pm. Good Friday: Liturgy of the Passion at 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil at 8pm. Easter Day: all Masses at the usual times.

A dozen adults have been preparing for deeper communion with the Catholic Church since last October – most of them will receive, Baptism or Reception into the Church and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (some of them will be received in the coming weeks because of family commitments). Please pray for them in the final stages of their preparation. Almost all of them are in their twenties and thirties and it is good to see these young people making an act of commitment to the way of Christ.

New sets of weekly giving envelopes will be found at the back of church for those who have had them in previous years: if you would like to sign up to this simple method of regular support for the parish there are forms available.