

The Week Ahead

Mon 13th	Our Lady of Fatima	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 14th	S MATTHIAS	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 15th	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 16th	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 17th	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 18th	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.00am; 6.00pm (<i>1st of Sun</i>)
Sun 19th	FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER	8.30am 9.30am [<i>Extraordinary Form</i>] 10.30am [<i>Solemn Latin</i>]

Missa Ave maris stella *Victoria*; Aurora lucis rutilat *Lassus*;
Gaude Maria Virgo *Victoria*; Saraband (for the morning of Easter) *Howells*
12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

The second of this year's Masses to celebrate the **First Holy Communion** of our children will be on Saturday at 11am (they have their rehearsal at 4.30pm this Wednesday).. The Sacrament of **Confirmation** will be administered to our young people by *Bishop Nicholas Hudson* at a Mass at 7pm this Friday.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Eugene Semeniuk** who lived in Cramer Street and has died at the age of 61. His funeral will take place at Golders Green on Monday at 11.30am. **RIP**

Readers at Mass: it would be good to widen the pool of readers we have as we rely too heavily on too few. Training will be offered for anyone who volunteers. Contact details to the parish office please.

The annual **bike ride** to raise funds for the work of the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** among the homeless is on Sunday 30th June and will take a route to Waltham Abbey in Essex. For more details see notice in the porch or contact wmetcalfemail@gmail.com. The **SVP** is still looking for a volunteer to drive the minibus on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 5.15pm to around 9pm.

Corpus Christi will again be marked by an afternoon procession from The Assumption Church in Warwick Street (behind Regents Street) to Spanish Place. **This will be on Sunday June 23rd.** Please put the day firmly into your diary and encourage others to do the same – this great act of witness to the Eucharistic love of Jesus needs to be just that. A thousand walked last year – let's make it a larger number this time around.

Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday
4.45pm-5.45pm

Confessions

Weekdays 12.00-1.00pm

Saturday
10.30am-Noon
☞ 5.00pm-5.45pm

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



Fourth Sunday of EASTER

12th May 2019

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 269]

*Latin texts pages 77/78
in the Parish Mass Book*

Acts 13:14,43-52; Apocalypse 7:9,14-17; St John 10:27-30

Psalm Response: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

10.30am Missa Ego flos Campi *Padilla*; Surrexit pastor bonus
Victoria; Regina caeli *Webbe*; Ave maris stella *De Grigny*

*Refreshments are served
after the 9.30am & 10.30am Masses
in the Parish Centre (in the Crypt)*

MONEY MATTERS
Sunday Collections
£3,044-00
(excludes s/o's)

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)
The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie (in residence)
The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (in residence)

Telephone: **020 7935 0943**

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The Rector writes

There used to be (and perhaps still is) a shrine in one of the churches in the centre of Oxford dedicated to Our Lady of Joy. While not among the usually recognised titles given to the Mother of Jesus this one does seem to have a particular relevance as we continue to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. We are familiar with the powerfully emotive imagery of the Pieta: Mary at the foot of the cross, cradling her Child in death as she had done in his birth seems to sum up so much of the experience of suffering humanity. Forms of art (painting, statuary, graphics) can give expression to emotions which words alone find hard to touch and while obviously remaining true to the fundamental narrative we should never be afraid to allow some imaginative leeway. In matters of the heart most people reach beyond the merely prosaic, and our attempts to articulate the depths of religious feeling need to be given generous scope.

It is probably easier for most people to identify with the Mary of Good Friday rather than Easter Day. In a world where technology brings the sheer scale of human dis-ease onto our devices and into our homes with such immediacy and clarity, no-one can live anymore in an isolated bubble: we are all too well aware of the conflicts which disturb and divide, as well as the sheer imbalance which means so many of our brothers and sisters have to try survive without adequate nutrition, healthcare or housing. The tears on the cheeks of the Mother of Sorrows and the sword which pierces her heart are authentic icons with which we can identify all too easily. We live in a world which is pessimistic about its own future and one in which negative forces appear to be determinative. It is no wonder that of all the shrines in our churches it is most often that of Mary under the cross which attracts the most devotion and where the most candles are lit.

Although reflective of human experience – and as such not to be played down in any way – Christian faith finds its core belief in an empty tomb and not an empty cross: “*the sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality*”. Mary though at all times the woman of faith could do nothing other than watch aghast at the treatment of her Son. She knew him to be the perfect facsimile of the eternal Godhead – she understood, as no-one else has ever done – the significance of the Incarnation – and she was horrified by his rejection and the barbarity which resulted from it. Out of this trauma was to come the unrestrained happiness of seeing this same broken and bloody flesh transformed and glorified in its resurrection

appearances. “*Joyful*” is perhaps an under-stated term to describe Mary on Easter Day: “*exultant*” and “*ecstatic*” might be better adjectives.

In a meditation on the Way of the Cross, Benedict XVI speaks to Mary: “*at the hour of the world’s darkest night, you became the Mother of all believers, the Mother of the Church. We beg you to teach us to believe and grant that our faith may bear fruit*”, and he continues by asking her Son: “*do not abandon us when we are tempted to lose heart. Give us the fidelity to withstand moments of confusion and a love ready to embrace you in your utter helplessness, like your Mother who once more holds you to her breast*”. As Mary touches the risen Jesus she feels the warmth of life, a heart pulsating and vibrant. This is her Child, returned to her from the grave, revealed with greater transparency than ever before as both Son of Man and Son of God. In these days of Eastertide as we reflect on the Paschal Mystery we can do no better than view events from the unique perspective of Mary’s sorrows and her joys. “*Real and authentic honouring of Mary by confident prayer can be a measure of our success in moving beyond a general abstract belief in God and actually achieving the concrete reality that Christian faith signifies*” (Karl Rahner SJ)

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

There will be a ***Marian procession*** at the end of the 10.30am Mass this Sunday marking May as “*Mary’s Month*”.

The rosary is recited after the 6pm Mass on the weekdays of May. If you would like to offer to lead the rosary please give your contact details to the sacristy or parish office.

The Church honours the Incarnation by reciting ***the Angelus*** three times each day. Here at Spanish Place the Angelus has been ringing at 8am, Midday and 6pm but the bell mechanism now needs replacement. This will cost £1800 and perhaps there might be someone who would like to donate towards this daily piece of sensory evangelisation (perhaps as a thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one)?

Next weekend we will be taking one of the two annual collections asked of us by the Archdiocese. This one is for ***the training of new priests***. You will find literature about this at the back of church and envelopes if you are able to contribute through Gift Aid. Your generosity is invited once again..