

## The Week Ahead

Mon 20th	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 21st	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 22nd	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 23rd	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 24th	<i>Easter feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 25th	St Bede the Venerable	10.00am; 6.00pm ( <i>1st of Sun</i> )
Sun 26th	<b>SIXTH</b>	8.30am
	<b>SUNDAY of</b>	9.30am [ <i>Extraordinary Form</i> ]
	<b>EASTER</b>	10.30am [ <i>Solemn Latin</i> ]
	Nelson Mass <i>Haydn</i> ; Ave Maria <i>Elgar</i> ; Praeludium in G <i>Bruhns</i>	12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Saint Vincent's School have their **May Procession** here in church at 2pm on Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup> May). This is always a beautiful and moving occasion – do come to join the children if you can.

**Photographs** from both First Holy Communion Masses and the Confirmation are available on line: look up [www.instantimaging.net](http://www.instantimaging.net) and find *1.spanish place comm 11.5.19* - the password is **873sp**. For the other two ceremonies use the appropriate date and the password either **875sp** for the Confirmation, or **874sp** for the second Holy Communion Mass.

The annual **bike ride** to raise funds for the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul among the homeless be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June and will take a route to Waltham Abbey in Essex. For more details see notice in the porch or contact [wmetcalfemail@gmail.com](mailto: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. The SVP Souper Ball will be held at the Lansdowne Club on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Raffle and auction prizes are need as well as your attendance!. Bill Metcalf will be at the back of the church after Sunday Masses if you want to know ore.

**Corpus Christi** will again be marked by an afternoon procession from The Assumption Church in Warwick Street (behind Regents Street) to Spanish Place. This year the date will be Sunday June 23rd. Please put the day firmly into your diary now and begin to 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.

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

### **Holy Hour and Benediction**

Saturday

4.45pm-5.45pm

### **Confessions**

Weekdays 12.00-1.00pm

Saturday

10.30am-Noon

☪ 5.00pm-5.45pm

**MONEY  
MATTERS  
Sunday  
Collections**

**£ 4,208-00**

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



## **Fifth Sunday of EASTER**

**19th May 2019**

### **TODAY'S LITURGY**

[ Parish Mass Book - page 271 ]

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

Acts 14:21-27; Apocalypse 21:1-5; St John 13:31-35

Psalm Response: **I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.**

**10.30am** Missa Ave maris stella *Victoria*;  
Aurora Lucis rutilat *Lassus*; Gaude Maria Virgo *Victoria*;  
Saraband (for the morning of Easter) *Howells*

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

**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 . . . . .

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is called “*Good Shepherd Sunday*” because in the Gospel passage set for that day Jesus defines his own ministry in terms of shepherding. As a consequence, the Archdiocese mandates a collection to support the training of our seminarians (to be taken after all Masses this weekend). Of course, we realise that these are not easy times to encourage fresh vocations. There can hardly have been a time in the long history of the Church when its priesthood has been so denigrated or questioned. It would be wrong to look outside to try to explain away what has happened. The weakening of the struggle for personal holiness, combined with a diminishment of pastoral zeal, can be identified as an attempt to identify with the realities of a secular society, but allowing the world to write the Church’s agenda is to play a risky game, and as Benedict XVI has recently reminded us it comes at a high price..

That being said, it seems right to use the occasion of the annual collection to underline my own belief in priesthood. I was ordained as an Anglican fifty years ago and I have been a Westminster priest since 1996. Through these decades there have been difficult times. I remember a conversation with Cardinal Hume in which he said that the older he got the more conscious he became of the many individuals he had failed. I can identify with his sentiments. But I can say in all honesty that I have never doubted that this is the path which God has marked out, and that, for me this is the only way to salvation. At base there is the conviction that the vocation to priestly ministry is a tremendous gift and privilege – something which although received in frail, earthen vessels still retains the touch of divine authenticity.

Saint Gregory Nazianzen (Patriarch of Constantinople in the 4<sup>th</sup> century) offers these thoughts: “*we must begin by purifying ourselves before purifying others: we must be instructed to be able to instruct; become light to illuminate, draw close to God to bring him close to others; be sanctified to sanctify, lead by the hand and counsel prudently. I know whose ministers we are, where we find ourselves and where we strive. I know God’s greatness and man’s weakness but also his potential (What then is a priest? He is ...) the defender of truth, who stands with the angels, gives glory with the archangels, causes sacrifice to rise to the altar on high, shares Christ’s priesthood, is divinised and divinises*”. That last phrase encapsulates everything. A priest is a priest because he shares Christ’s priesthood.

Like every other Christian he is being “*divinised*” remade in the image of Christ, but what sets him apart is that he is a minister of sacramental grace, a conduit – not its source, but its servant. It is his duty, as it is his joy, to be able to offer others the effective means of salvation. In Saint John Vianney’s’ phrase the priest is to show his brothers and sisters the way to heaven.

Karl Rahner one wrote a reflection with the title: “*The Man with the pierced Heart*”, in which he relates the priesthood of Jesus to those whom the Church needs to ordain. “*Tomorrow’s priest will be the man with the pierced heart, from which alone he draws strength for his mission. With the pierced heart, pierced through by the godlessness of life, pierced through by the folly of love, pierced through by lack of success, pierced through by the experience of his own profound unreliability. I say he is the man with the pierced heart because he is to lead others to the very core of their existence, to their inmost heart,*” To be a Christian, to be a priest, is to accept the nature of Jesus’ pierced Heart. Good Friday is an eternal reality. But the cross is only one side of the Paschal Mystery. Out of suffering and humiliation come the green shoots of new life. Easter has to be an eternal reality as well. The Cure’s d’Ars said that: “*the priest continues the work of redemption on earth – the priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus*”. Pray for more priests: pray more for your priests: pray, above all else, pray for a holy priesthood.

**Christopher Colven**

## NOTICES

The annual collection for the ***PRIEST TRAINING FUND*** will be taken by the main door after all Mass this weekend. There are currently forty-five students at Allen Hall (our seminary) and last year eight priests were ordained to serve this diocese. Your gift ensures that training can be provided for those called to serve as our future priests.

The celebration of the Paschal Mystery moves up a gear (literally!) in the celebration of the ***ASCENSION of the LORD*** on Thursday week, 30<sup>th</sup> May. ***This is a Holy Day of Obligation when everyone should attend Mass.*** The Vigil Mass at 6pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> fulfils the obligation and the Masses on 30<sup>th</sup> will be at 7.15am, 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm, 6pm and 7pm (sung with the choir).

The order for the new ***Angelus*** mechanism has been placed and we look forward once more to hearing the bell ringing out three times a day over Marylebone. We are grateful for the generosity which has covered the cost.