

The Week Ahead

Mon 9th feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 10th feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 11th feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 12th Most Holy Name of Mary	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 13th S John Chrysostom	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10.00am; 6.00pm (<i>1st of Sun</i>)
Sun 15th Twenty Fourth	8.30am
in Ordinary Time	9.30am [<i>Extraordinary form</i>]
	10.30am [<i>Solemn Latin</i>] Jubelmesse Weber
	Pater peccavi A. Gabrieli
	Praeludium in D minor Böhm
	12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

This Tuesday (10th September) at 7.30pm **The Sixteen** will be here once again performing a concert at 7.30pm. This is part of their Choral Pilgrimage 2019 and under the title "*An Enduring Voice*" there will be works by Sheppard, Taverner, Whitacre and Macmillan. For more details, booking etc look up www.thesixteen.com

The **Saint Vincent de Paul Society** are planning their next major fund-raiser which will be the 20th Souper Ball on **Saturday 19th October** at the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair. Everyone is invited. It is £100 for dinner & dance and £40 for dancing only. We are looking for raffle and auction prizes. The SVP is in immediate need of volunteers to join a rota of drivers their van on the Tuesday and Friday runs to distribute food to the homeless.

The **Saint Francis Ramblers** invite you to join their walk on Saturday 14th September. Meet Herons Quay DLR station at 11am. Distance 5.5 miles with lunch stop finishing in Greenwich. Please call 07847 282626 for more details.

What happens if you go into hospital? In the light of the strict data protection rules which now exist, it is essential that on entering hospital you indicate that details, or those of your relatives, are passed to the Roman Catholic chaplain, stating that you or your relative would like the chaplain to visit.

Last week's giving £2,744-00
(includes envelopes but not bankers' orders etc)

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



**Twenty Third
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

**8th September
2019**

**Latin texts
on
pages 73/74**

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book - page 133]

Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9-10,12-17; St Luke 14:25-33

Psalm Response: **O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

10.30am Missa Inclita stirps Jesse Rogier
Ave Maria Mendelssohn
Hodie nata est beata Virgo Maria Palestrina
Sonata No.3 Mendelssohn

*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 Canon Stuart Wilson
The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie (in residence)
The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (in residence)

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The Rector writes

At the centre of every Catholic church you will find a crucifix. Hopefully, in every Catholic home and above the bed of every Catholic, there will be a crucifix. The cross is the fundamental symbol of our Christian faith, but it is, of course, a double sign pointing on the one hand, to pain and suffering while on the other it speaks of new life and the hope of glory. On Saturday we celebrate the *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*, and the Church asks us to reflect on all that the cross means to us on our Christian journey. The key to any understanding of the cross is the realisation of the true identity of the One who died on it. Our core belief is that Jesus is the human face of the Godhead. When the Creator wanted his creatures to understand his true nature, he sent his Son in a form that could be seen, and talked with, and touched. Saint Paul expresses the divine humility: *“the state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:6).

The Church teaches us that the One who suffered on Good Friday is both divine and human, fully part of the Godhead while, at the same time, authentically sharing in our created nature. As Jesus dies in the flesh which he has in common with us and as his lifeblood pours away, his foreknowledge as God remains intact and, in some way which, as yet, goes way beyond human imagination, Jesus’ heart and mind comprehend the sins of fallen humanity in their entirety – every single one of them. A children’s hymn sums it up: *“He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his precious blood”*. Every wrong choice, every evil deed, every failing, every meanness, every venial sin, every mortal sin – all the damage which the forces of evil have inflicted on the human condition, from the very moment of creation until its consummation, all that is nailed to the cross, crucified, so consciously and painfully with Christ.

We talk of *atonement*. It is through the wood of the cross that the essential dignity of our humanity is restored and raised to a new level. *“God loved the world so much he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life”*. The communion of love which binds Father and Son as one in the Holy Spirit is now shared with us, and through what has been achieved on the cross, we become the sons and daughters of God in an entirety

fresh and radical way. The redemption won by Jesus in the shedding of his blood contains a universal invitation to salvation from which no one can now be excluded. A human solidarity is created as consciously, or unconsciously, we find our meeting place at the foot of the cross. The consequence of this, as the Catechism says, is that *“every human person, created in the image of God has the natural right to be recognised as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect”*.

But those words have a certain hollow ring about them. We do not live in a respectful society. Walk along any street in this great metropolis, any day or any night, and the indifference, the unkindness, the lack of compassion, with which people treat one another is a harsh reality. That is why our Catholic communities are of such vital importance, not just for their own members, but for the wider society in which we find ourselves. Our parishes should be microcosms of what is humanly possible. We have a responsibility to demonstrate how people from differing and cultures and backgrounds can co-exist in an atmosphere of mutual concern. Perhaps that term *“co-exist”* is not well chosen, for what we are asked to be do is something much more Christ-centred than merely living alongside each other. We are called to interact as children of the same Father. We are called to love, for as the Letter to the Romans reminds us : *“love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour”*.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Enrolment for the ***new sacramental programmes*** are available at the back of church. If you have a child to be prepared for First Holy Communion, or are a teenager looking towards the Sacrament of Confirmation, or an adult wanting to come into full communion with the Catholic Church, or to learn more about the Faith, then fill in the appropriate form and return it by the very latest on **6th October**

We welcome some of the students from our seminary at ***Allen Hall*** in Chelsea who will be joining us for this Sunday’s Solemn Mass – if you have not yet said *“hello”* to ***Canon Stuart Wilson*** (who has moved to us from the seminary during this past week) please make sure you do so.

Marion Sharman is in University College Hospital after a catastrophic stroke: please pray for Mas as her life on earth nears its conclusion. The funeral of ***Mary Pethica*** takes place on Monday at the Abbey of Solesmes: a Memorial Mass is being planned to take place here on Saturday 5th October probably at 2pm. ***Anne, Lady Jaffray*** reaches ***100*** this week. We wish her great happiness and a wonderful celebration of this significant birthday.