

The Week Ahead

Mon 30th	S Jerome	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 1st	S Thérèse of the Child Jesus	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 3rd	feria	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 4th	S Francis of Assisi	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 5th	of Our Lady	10.00am, 6.00pm (<i>1st of Sun</i>)

Sun 6th	Twenty Seventh	8.30am
	in Ordinary Time	9.30am [<i>Extraordinary form</i>]
		10.30am [<i>Solemn Latin</i>]
		12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

This Tuesday at 4pm the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Adams, will say a Mass here for the soul of **Professor Francisco Orrega Vicuna** previously Chilean head of mission to the Vatican.. On Thursday the funeral Mass for **Luigi Tosi** will be offered at 11am, and on Saturday at 2pm **Mary Pethica's** Memorial Mass. Please pray for **Felicia Munn** who is gravely ill after a stroke – our hearts go out to Maria and the rest of the family..

**Holy Hour
and Benediction**
Saturday - 4.45pm-5.45pm

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

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary and the rosary will be prayed each weekday after the 6pm Mass. Offers to lead this should be made to Chris Daly in the sacristy.

“England the Dowry of Mary – Meaning and Mission” is the title of the annual lecture organised by the Guild of Ransom which will be given here in the social centre on Monday 7th October at 7.15am by **Edmund Matyjaszek**. Everyone is welcome. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception.

MARY'S MEALS is a charity which aims to feed children one good meal a day within the context of their schooling: they work in twenty-one countries. Over the weekend 12/13th October volunteers will be coming to collect unwanted clothing and bedding (but not duvets or pillows). These should be put in black sacks and left in the baptistry.

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. See notices at the back of church for further details.

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



Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th September
2019

Latin texts
on pages
73/74

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book - page 143]

Amos 6:1,4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; St Luke 16:19-31

Psalm Response: **My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

10.30am Missa Salve Regina *Victoria*;
Super flumina Babylonis *Victoria*; Factum est silentium *Dering*
Allegro assai (Sonata no. 4) Guilmant

*Refreshments 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).*

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

Last week's giving
£3,011.00
(includes envelopes
but not bankers' orders)

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The Rector writes

The month of September comes to an end with a commemoration of Saint Michael and the other Archangels (29th) and October opens with a celebration of the Holy Guardian Angels (2nd). Both days provide the opportunity to reflect on the Church's understanding of the angelic mission while cutting away the stranger notions which New Age ideologies have fed over past decades. The existence of angels is a truth of faith to which the Catechism testifies: "*the witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition*". But what are the angels? Much Christian art has not served them well, and most of us have in our imagination the cherubs or "*putti*" depicted as surrounding Our Lord and his saints in Baroque paintings and statuary. Saint Thomas Aquinas, in contrast, grounds the angelic ministry: "*the angels work together for the benefit of us all*". In other words, the angels have a role in the mystery of individual salvation. Saint Augustine is clear that these spiritual, non-corporal beings are completely the servants and messengers of God: because they "*always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven*" (Matthew 18:10) they are "*the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening the voice of his word*" (Psalm 103:20).

From the annunciation of his Incarnation to his Ascension, the life of Jesus was surrounded by the service of angels: they protect the Lord in his infancy, serve him in the desert and strengthen him in his agony in the garden of Gethsemane. The angels have their place, too, as evangelists in their primary witness to the Resurrection on Easter Day (Mark 16:5-7) and Scripture assures us that they will be present on the last Day to announce the Second Coming (Luke 12:8-9). "*In the meantime, the whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels*" (Catechism) not least in the Funeral Mass where we pray for the soul of the departed: "*may the angels lead you into Paradise*". It is a common belief, encouraged by the teaching authority of the Church, that each of us has a particular guardian whose role is to encourage and watch over us on our pilgrimage through this life – "*beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd*" (Saint Basil). In his "*Dream of Gerontius*". John Henry Newman has Gerontius' angel guardian greet him: "*my friend and brother, hail!*". The Catechism sums up: "*from infancy to death human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession*".

In a particularly beautiful section of the Catechism the interdependence that should exist between every creature is emphasised: "*the sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow, the spectacle of their countless diversities*

and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other". This vision of communion which is intended for the material order is part of a continuum in which God wills his creatures should know and experience his love on this earth and into eternity. The existence of the angels provides a necessary linkage between what is and what will be. "*An openness to the angelic presences can transform our attitudes and activities towards wholeness, creativity and a charity which is at once exacting and joyous*" (Aidan Nichols OP). While the angels and archangels are a living connection with the worship and life enjoyed in heaven, they also provide us with another reason to respect the human dignity of every one of our neighbours. If, as Jesus warns: "*see that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven*" (Matthew 18:10) we have a compelling motive to care for one another and never to compromise the respect which is owed to every person. In our eyes some of those with whom we share this planet may seem unattractive and difficult but in the light of faith those same people are constantly attended by their angel guardians – and who, except God himself, may judge the fruitfulness of their ministry? "*Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels, thou who hast made us, thou who o'er us rulest, grant of thy mercy unto us thy servants, steps up the heaven*" (9th century)

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Copies of the **Cardinal's Pastoral Letter** are available at the back of church.

Enrolment for the **new sacramental programmes** continues for another week. 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 a form and **return it by 6th October**

CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day is this Friday 4th October – the collection will be taken next weekend, and this year's theme will be introduced by **Elizabeth Carey** at the end of all this Sunday's Masses.

Thank you for your generous response to the appeal for the **Missionaries of Africa** (the White Fathers). **£3,145** was raised.