

The **Social Centre** is best accessed via Blandford Street - *the stairs lead directly to the Accessible toilet - where there are also **baby changing facilities*** - and the corridor on which other cloakrooms are located.

Children should always be accompanied

THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO REDISCOVERING ITS SONGS

Booking now open at <http://bit.ly/caminosongs1>

The pilgrimage ceremony will be 11am-1pm on Saturday 17th October.
[To sing in the final session you should have attended at least one of the learning sessions]

Learning sessions will be

Sunday 4th October (4-6pm Farm Street), Wednesday 14th October (7-9pm Spanish Place)

GraceMeet is a new Catholic matchmaking service built by a young Catholic in London for single adults seriously seeking marriage. There is no swiping. Each week an AI suggests a small number of carefully chosen matches based on faith, values and life stage, every profile is identity verified, and the service is free while in its early stages.
Find out more at gracemeetapp.com.

Urgent: Stop assisted suicide - postcards available The vote on assisted suicide is on 11 September. Not Dead Yet UK have provided postcards you can send to your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September. **Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details, and post it to your MP today!**

If you can help the parish by making a donation or by a commitment to regular giving, it would be greatly appreciated. More information from the parish office or use the details set out below:-

HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY
Sort code: 40-05-20 Acc no: 91094394

We have '**one-off**' Gift Aid envelopes at various locations in church for cash offerings at Sunday Mass. **Please complete all sections** before ticking 'This' or 'all subsequent'

Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, or by using the QR code.



We lack contact details for a number of generous donors whose gifts come directly in to our bank account. If **GIFT AID** was a possibility for these individuals could they please contact the Parish Office to discuss and/or request the necessary form. **GIFT AID** allows us to claim 25% from HMRC and costs the donor **NOTHING** (other than their signature). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form; we can backdate claims by up to 4 years (if we have sufficient evidence).

PARISH REPOSITORY (located in the Memorial Chapel)

Weekdays 11.00 - 12.30
Saturday 15.45 - 16.45
Sunday 09.45 - 10.30
11.30 - 13.00 & 15.00 - 16.00

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



TODAY'S LITURGY [Mass Book page 122]

Jeremiah 20:7-9

'The word of the Lord has become for me a reproach.'

**For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

Romans 12:1-2

'Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.'

Matthew 16:21-27

'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.'

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 30th August 2026

Live-streamed on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), Readings available on [Universalis](https://www.universalis.net), Foreign language sheets available at the back of the church.

LATIN responses for the Solemn Mass 73/4 in the green Mass Book

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year A Weekday Cycle II
Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 31st feria 10am ONLY
T 1st feria
W 2nd feria
T 3rd ST GREGORY THE GREAT
F 4th feria
S 5th feria 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

6th September 2026
XXIIIrd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am and 9am [1962]
10.30am [Solemn Latin]
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

Monsignor Philip Whitmore (Rector)

Father Domenico Lando

The Reverend Mark Elliott-Smith (in residence, Ordinariate)

Telephone: 020 7935 0943 [Parish Office: 020 3475 9097]

Email: spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

As August draws to a close, the school reopens and many aspects of regular parish life return. **Tomorrow is Bank Holiday Monday**, when there will be just a **single Mass in the church, at 10am**, after which the church will be closed for the rest of the day. Friday will be the **first Friday** of the month, when we would hope to schedule exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. However, as an event is due to take place in the church early in the afternoon, the exposition will not begin until around 4pm. It will then continue until shortly before the evening Mass. So there are fewer “*slots*” for signature, but if you are able to make a commitment to be present, please do think of signing your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

Both the parish clergy are hoping to make retreats in the course of September. So don't be surprised if you come across even more visiting clergy than usual. Just occasionally it may be necessary to cancel an event that would normally be taking place. Thank you for your understanding. We are all affected by a decline in the number of priests available.

Please be aware of the process for requesting **certificates of Catholic practice** in connexion with a school application. There are forms at the back of the church which would need to be signed for three consecutive Sundays by the priest who celebrates the Mass you attend. On the reverse of the form is a space for information about the child, needed for the certificate itself.

From next weekend forms will also be available for those who wish to enrol in the parish's sacramental preparation programmes, that is to say, in the **First Holy Communion** preparation, teenage **confirmation** and the **RCIA**, the course aimed at adults who wish to learn more about the faith. Those seeking baptism or reception into the Church are invited to complete these forms as are Catholics seeking confirmation or a deeper knowledge of the faith. The course envisages baptism of new Catholics at the Easter Vigil, but as Easter is early in 2027 - before the end of March - it will be necessary to make a start quite early in October.

We have been asked to draw your attention to the supply of postcards at the back of the church that you can send to your Member of Parliament, asking him or her to vote against the Assisted Dying bill when it is presented afresh. The name of the coalition says it all: “*not dead yet*”. For further details, see elsewhere on the newsletter.

The start of September has relatively few feast-days - although there are plenty later in the month. One that does stand out, however, is next **Thursday**, when we commemorate **Saint Gregory the Great**, the Pope and Doctor of the Church who sent Saint Augustine of Canterbury to evangelise the English. In England, the date is kept as a feast, because of Gregory's role in bringing the Gospel to the Anglo-Saxons. According to a Protestant narrative, much promoted at the time of the Reformation, Gregory's initiative was infelicitous, as it led to the Romanization of

English Christianity. For us, though, it was a glorious development, as we view with considerable pride any links between the Church in Rome and her English cousins. For our neighbours at Warwick Street, it is a great feast, as the church there bears the dedication to Our Lady of the Assumption and Saint Gregory.

In October, we will be commemorating the pilgrimage to the relics of Saint James at Santiago de Compostela, by conducting a mini-pilgrimage from Farm Street Church to Spanish Place. There will be an opportunity to sing some of the newly-discovered medieval pilgrim songs. Some prior rehearsal is needed, so registration is necessary, at <http://bit.ly/caminosongs1>. Further details can be found elsewhere on the newsletter.

Many of the parish's activities will be starting up again in September. This will, of course, include the **Young Adults Group**. They will be meeting as usual on the **first and third Wednesday of the month**, beginning this week, and they will be present at Mass on the last Sunday of the month. They are also involved in hosting the “*pilgrims*” referenced in the previous paragraph.

A matchmaking service that may be of interest to some of our young adults who are seriously seeking marriage is detailed elsewhere on the newsletter. It is known as “*Gracemeet*”. Many people choose to marry in this church, often because family members have married here in the past, and so the church plays a large part in their Catholic identity, even if they live in other parts of London. Christian marriage is a fine vocation, and one we would wish to encourage. There was a time when the State's understanding of marriage was very similar to the Church's understanding, but sadly this is no longer the case, to the extent that it might almost be better if we had two different words to describe what the State understands and what the Church understands. It is still the case that a church marriage has civil effects, as long as the couple concerned notify the civil Registry Office in good time of their intention to marry. A document known as the “*marriage schedule*” is produced by the Registry Office, which the couple sign on the day of the ceremony. The church then forwards this document to the Civil Registrar, and it is on the basis of the information contained in this document that the Civil Registrar enters details of the marriage into the civil registers. We keep in our prayers all the many couples who marry in Saint James's Church.

Philip Whitmore

A special welcome to our visitors. Refreshments are served in the Social Centre (in the crypt) after the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses. Do please join us if you have the time.

Church opens at 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturdays.
Confession between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.
A priest is available from 4.45pm - 5.30pm on Saturdays.
