

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)

St. James's Young Adults Group (Ages 18-35)

Looking to grow your faith and connect with people your own age? Join our vibrant young adults community!

Whether you are into faith talks, social events or just making new friends, there is a place for you here.



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.

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

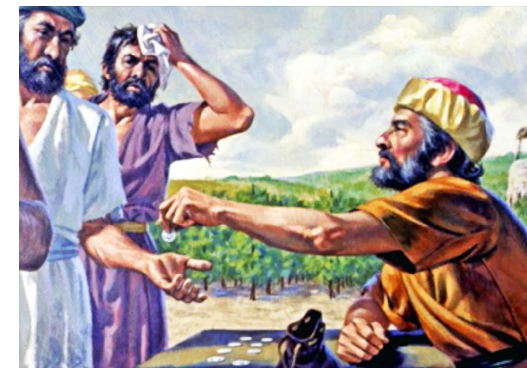
St James's Roman Catholic Church

- **Spanish Place** - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th September 2026

Live-streamed on [YouTube](#),
Readings available on [Universalis](#),
Foreign language sheets available
at the back of the church.

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



TODAY'S LITURGY [Mass Book page 131]

Isaiah 55:6-9

'My thoughts are not your thoughts.'

**The LORD is close
to all who call him.**

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

'For to me to live is Christ.'

Matthew 20:1-16

'Do you begrudge my generosity?'

The Week Ahead

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

M 21st St MATTHEW
T 22nd feria
W 23rd St Pius of Pietrelcina
T 24th OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
F 25th feria
S 26th BVM on Saturday 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

27th September 2026
XXVIth 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

This Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday**, when our bishops ask us to pray particularly for the work of evangelization in our own country. For further information, including the opportunity to contribute, see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home-mission-sunday/>. At one time, when ours could have been described as a Christian country, the need for evangelization at home would not have been as acute as it is now. But as Pope St John Paul II pointed out in 1983, when addressing the bishops of Latin America, *“The commemoration of the half millennium of evangelization will gain its full energy if it is a commitment, not to re-evangelize but to a New Evangelization, new in its ardour, methods and expression.”* This famous observation gave rise to a movement for the re-evangelization of traditionally Christian territories, including our own continent. Please keep this intention in your prayers this weekend, and if you wish to contribute, feel free to visit the site indicated above.

This Sunday is the first of four when the annual Mass count takes place. It is helpful to know how many people attend Mass at Saint James’s on a Sunday, and not only will the figure be entered into diocesan statistics, but it will help to determine the level of our contribution to diocesan central funding. So don’t be surprised if you see people wandering around the church looking keenly at those present for Mass.

The week ahead begins with the feast of an apostle and evangelist - **Saint Matthew**, the tax-collector turned disciple, who forms the subject of a group of three remarkable paintings by Caravaggio in one of the side chapels at the French national church in Rome, San Luigi dei Francesi. These paintings represent respectively the Call of Matthew (perhaps the most famous of the three scenes), the Inspiration of Matthew (writing his Gospel under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) and the martyrdom of Matthew. It is often claimed that Saint Matthew’s Gospel was written for a readership made up of converts from Judaism, as it presupposes a deep familiarity with Jewish Law and ritual.

Wednesday sees the liturgical memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, known during his lifetime as **Padre Pio**. An Italian Franciscan priest of the twentieth century, his confessional ministry was widely renowned and brought pilgrims flocking to San Giovanni Rotondo in the Southern Italian Province of Puglia (or Apulia), where his mortal remains are now enshrined. In St James’s Church we do have a small statue of Padre Pio, which can be seen at the front of the church above the right-hand aisle.

Thursday sees the national feast of **Our Lady of Walsingham**. A brief history of our national shrine in rural Norfolk can be found at <https://beholdyourmother.org/spiritual-corner-1/f/our-lady-of-walsingham>. The feast was added to our national calendar by Pope St John Paul II in 2001, replacing the older celebration of Our Lady of Ransom. This title makes reference to the once widespread practice of ransoming Christian captives enslaved by the Moors. The shrine at Walsingham includes a replica of the Holy House at Nazareth, in which the Annunciation took place, so the spirituality of our national Marian shrine is closely linked to the first of the joyful mysteries.

In the coming days, our Holy Father is to make his much-awaited visit to France, including stops in Paris, Lourdes and Metz. He will visit the shrine of St Denis, to the north of Paris, as well as the popular shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, where he will meet the assembled bishops of France. We pray for the success of this visit and we look forward to the hoped-for papal visit to our own country, yet to be announced.

Those wishing to enrol for **sacramental preparation** programmes have two more weeks in which to do so. Forms are available at the back of the church and on the parish website (in the “catechetics” section) for those wishing to enrol their children for **First Holy Communion** or **Confirmation** preparation, and also for adults, whatever their faith background, who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith (**RCIA**). The completed forms should be submitted to the parish office by the first weekend in October, two weeks from now.

As the month of September draws to a close, we look forward to the month of the rosary, October, when the rosary will be recited each weekday evening in the Lady Chapel after the 6pm Mass. Many will already have noticed the days becoming shorter. In fact the autumn equinox is due to take place in the coming week, marking the start of astronomical autumn. Meteorological autumn began at the start of September. So the summer is well and truly behind us.

The final Sunday in the month, next weekend, is when the young adults will be present at the Noon Mass, and in the Social Centre afterwards, after taking a break for the month of August, so do please make a note of the date and support this excellent initiative if you are able to do so.

One of the common features of parish life early in a new school year is that many parents seek **Certificates of Catholic Practice** in connexion with school applications for their children. If you would like to request one of these, evidence of Catholic Practice is needed. There are postcards at the back of the church on which evidence of Mass attendance on three consecutive Sundays can be obtained. They also invite necessary information about the child’s full name, postal address and date of birth. We pray for the children of the parish, particularly for those attending new schools at this time. Indeed we pray for all members of the parish, as we resume our daily tasks after the summer break. God bless you all!

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.
