

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

Reminder: The crypt is best accessed via the Blandford Street staircase, which leads directly to the Accessible toilet, where there are baby changing facilities, and the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.



St. James's Young Adults Group (Ages 18-35)
Looking to grow your faith and connect with people your 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.

The **2025 CTiW Advent Service at 5pm on 30 November** hosted by St Saviour's Church, Pimlico. Come and celebrate the beginning of Advent with carols and readings by candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies. *All very welcome.*

Young Adults ADVENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 6th December 2025, 10am – 6pm.** Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • mass and social time. £5 registration fee/subsidised student places available on request. **Register now by emailing: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org**

A 12 day pilgrimage to Ireland 8-19 May 2026
Theme: "Purification with the help of the Saints"
Cost: minimum 30 pilgrims - £2295, 40 pilgrims - £2215
this includes hotel accommodation, flights, coach hire, entry fees, etc. For further information, please contact 07733 223903.

Lough Derg Sanctuary,
Our Lady of Knock Shrine,
Croagh Patrick, Dublin,
Skellig Michael and more

To book, please contact Tangney Tours: clare@tangney-tours.com, 01732 886666. Please book early.

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 Sort code: 40-05-20 Acc no: 91094394
WRCDT St James Spanish Place

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.

Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



GIFT AID enables the Parish to claim from HMRC an additional 25% of a donor's gift (offertory, candles, mass intentions) and costs you **NOTHING** (*apart from a signature*). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form (if we are able to identify your earlier gifts we can backdate the claim up to 4 years).

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

23rd November 2025

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

Responses for the Solemn Latin Mass - pages 73/74 in the [red] Parish Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY

Parish Mass Book page 167

2 Samuel 5:1-3
'They anointed David king over Israel.'

**Let us go rejoicing
to the house of the LORD.**

Colossians 1:12-20
'He has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.'

Luke 21:5-19
'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

The Week Ahead
Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I
Mass at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 24th Vietnamese Martyrs
T 25th feria
W 26th feria
T 27th feria
F 28th feria
S 29th BVM on Saturday 10am
Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

30th November 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8am and 9am
10.30am Solemn Latin,
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

The Reverend Monsignor Philip Whitmore (*Rector*)
The Reverend John Njorteah
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 Church opens 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturdays.
Confession between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.
On Saturday a priest is available from 4.45pm - 5.30pm

The Rector writes

This Sunday, the last in the Church's year, is the **feast of Christ the King**, a feast instituted by Pius XI exactly a century ago in 1925, via the Encyclical Quas Primas (https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_11121925_quas-primas.html). It was no coincidence that the Fascist era had just begun in Italy. The meaning of the feast is that Christ rules the universe, above all worldly powers. His Kingdom of justice, truth and peace is the real homeland of Christians, even if we also owe allegiance to the civil authorities wherever we happen to live.

This Sunday's feast also marks the end of the **Spanish Place Appeal Year**. Our thanks and sincere appreciation go to all who helped us to meet our target. That's the good news. The cost of refurbishing the organ has remained as anticipated, but unfortunately the cost of replacing the boilers has proved to be higher than we were expecting. As all of the parish's money technically belongs to the Diocese of Westminster, the system in place requires us to obtain permission from the central administration whenever we spend more than £10,000. While we were seeking permission to spend money on the boilers, the Government dramatically reduced the amount available to us through the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme. At the same time, materials and labour increased in cost, so that as soon as the permission was received, we felt obliged to start the work, even though the cold months were fast approaching. Had we not done so, the costs would probably have increased further. So be prepared for a cold week or two before the work is completed next month!

As I mentioned last week, one way we are seeking to minimize the cost to the parish of this increase is by a reallocation of the funds collected for the parish through the **Growing in Faith** Initiative some years ago. Many thanks to the donors who have already indicated their consent to this reallocation. We are assured that our fuel bills will be significantly reduced once the new boilers come into operation. That should also help. In the meantime, as the Appeal Year draws to a close, we are making one final plea to parishioners who have yet to contribute to consider doing so, and to those who have already contributed to consider whether they may be in a position to offer any more. Many thanks in anticipation to all "*end-of-year donors*". Earlier we were told to expect a cost of £320,000, but it now seems likely to be nearer £450,000!

We do have further projects in view, when circumstances permit: the area below the church is in need of attention, a lift is needed in the 5-storey Rectory if we are to attract retired priests in the future and the garden could be made into a more welcoming space. The Parish Finance Committee often reminds us of the need to maintain adequate reserves as well, in case an unexpected outlay is needed.

This afternoon's concert at the Wigmore Hall (see notice) is intended to boost the funds raised by the Appeal - and indeed one of our longer-term goals is to set aside funds so as to guarantee the future of the excellent musical establishment that we enjoy so much here at Spanish Place.

I mentioned earlier in the year that the church is seeking to engage cleaners. It

has been pointed out to us that we may be able to attract **volunteers to clean the church** itself, while other parts of the premises would be more appropriately assigned to paid cleaners. If any of our regular worshippers would like to volunteer to serve on a rota of church cleaners, they are invited to contact the parish office before the middle of December.

At any time of year, but particularly during the colder months, hospital admissions tend to increase. Do remember, if you or a family member should find yourselves in hospital, that if you would like to see a priest or to receive sacraments, you need to ask the nursing staff specifically to arrange this. It no longer happens as a matter of course when Catholics are admitted to hospital.

Much regret has been expressed by parishioners over the imminent departure of **Father John Njorteah**. It is hoped to arrange a farewell for him, perhaps after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 18 January. Confirmation and further details will follow nearer the time. It is good that he will still be with us when the Young Adults group reaches its first anniversary - watch this space for further news!

Meanwhile, next Saturday, **Bishop Nicholas Hudson** will be installed as Bishop of Plymouth. Our prayers and good wishes go with him as he begins his new ministry in the south-west, just in time for the start of Advent, the beginning of a new church year.

During Advent, there will be online Bible Study sessions on Wednesday evenings, for which registration is invited at comeandsee.org/advent25.

Many parishioners will remember **Katrina Carlsson**, who used to beg at the George Street entrance to the church. She recently died, and the evening Mass this coming Thursday is to be offered for the repose of her soul. Many of our worshippers were very kind to her and may wish to attend. It is worth reiterating that our parish does a great deal for the homeless: twice a week, the **Companions of the Order of Malta** feed them in the area below the church and twice a week **our own SVP** brings food to the homeless in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Finally, it is heartening to see the numbers who have registered for formation in the Catholic faith this year, with a view to being baptised or received into the Church or confirmed. The Easter Vigil on Saturday 4 April 2026 is when this is likely to happen, but in the meantime we should all keep these "*seekers*" in our prayers.

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.

To mark the end of the Spanish Place Appeal year and to celebrate the return of the Hunter organ, a **recital of English Romantic Song** performed by members of our choir - *an opportunity to hear some of our musicians as soloists* - at the **Wigmore Hall this afternoon at 3pm**.
Tickets can be obtained from the Wigmore Hall Box Office.
