

Monday 21st is a Public Holiday.
Mass will be celebrated at 10am ONLY
and the church will close soon after.

A reminder that the crypt is best accessed via the **staircase on the Blandford Street side** of the church, leading as it does directly to the Disabled toilet - where there are **baby changing facilities** - and the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

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

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 20th-25th October



Visits to the four major basilicas, each of which will have a Holy Door for Jubilee pilgrims, as well as the two English seminaries, the Vatican, the Catacombs and the English College summer residence on Lake Albano, and much more besides. The cost is likely to be £1,595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1,895 per person (single, with limited availability). **Those interested, or wanting further information, contact the parish office.**

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
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



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



Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays. (not on 21st)

The Church opens at 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturday

St James's Roman Catholic Church

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



EASTER SUNDAY

20th April 2025

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

Responses for Solemn Latin
pages 77/8 in the Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY [Parish Mass Book page 252]

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

*'We ate and drank with him
after he rose from the dead.'*

**This is the day the LORD
has made; let us rejoice in
it and be glad.**

Colossians 3:1-4

*'Seek the things that are above,
where Christ is.'*

John 20:1-9

'He must rise from the dead.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 21st Easter Octave 10am ONLY
T 22nd Easter Octave
W 23rd Easter Octave
T 24th Easter Octave
F 25th Easter Octave
S 26th Easter Octave 10am
Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

27th April 2025
**SECOND SUNDAY
of EASTER**
Divine Mercy

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@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

Christ is risen! Alleluia! After “*fasting*” from the acclamation “*alleluia*” for the whole of Lent, we return to it with a vengeance at Easter. We will hear it resounding in Handel’s famous chorus from “*Messiah*” at our sung Easter liturgies, and we will proclaim it constantly throughout the Easter season, which lasts until Pentecost, slightly longer even than Lent. Another powerful reminder of the presence of the risen Christ among us is the Paschal candle, lit from the Easter fire during the Vigil ceremony and given pride of place on the sanctuary throughout the Easter season.

The new life that we associate with Easter is experienced particularly by those who will be baptised - at the Vigil ceremony and during the Paschal season. Throughout the Easter Octave, the first Eucharistic Prayer includes a daily prayer for the newly-baptised - for **Rana, Amber and Juliet**. It is this: “*graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, which we make to you also for those to whom you have been pleased to give the new birth of water and the Holy Spirit, granting them forgiveness of all their sins.*” In this prayer, we could also remember **Oliver**, who will be received into the Catholic Church and confirmed during the Easter Vigil, and **Jemima**, who is to be received and confirmed later in the Easter season.

Outside the Church, many people believe that Easter is over as soon as they return to work, on the Tuesday after Easter. In the Church, though, we know that Easter “*day*” lasts for a whole week, known as the Octave of Easter, and then the season of Easter lasts for a further six weeks. Every day during the Octave is treated as if it were still Easter “*day*”. We say in the Preface, “*on this day [we] laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.*” And each day during the Octave, there is a double “*alleluia*” both in the dismissal at the end of Mass, and in the people’s response. On the Friday of the Easter Octave, we need not abstain from meat.

The Easter Octave displaces any feasts that may otherwise have fallen during that week. In other circumstances, we might have celebrated Saint Anselm of Canterbury on 21 April and Saint Mark the Evangelist on 25 April. Both of these feasts are displaced entirely this year. **The feast of Saint George, patron of England**, ranks as a solemnity in this country, and for that reason it is transferred from Wednesday 23 April to the nearest available date after the end of the Octave, namely **Monday 28 April**.

It was on 21 April in 2018 that the Holy Father received the community of the English College in Rome for an Audience in the Apostolic Palace. His baptismal name is George, of course, so I took the opportunity to wish him a happy feast-day, a couple of days in advance. He commented that there had been a move some sixty years ago to take Saint George out of the calendar, but that it was the English who had “*saved*” him! There was a grateful twinkle in his eye.

On the feast of Saint George in 2021, as the English College community was emerging from Covid restrictions, we invited Cardinal George Pell to celebrate and preach for us, as it was his name-day and our patronal feast. When pointing

out to our distinguished guest the 17th-century ceiling fresco of Saint George in the College refectory, I claimed that it had been painted in his honour, but I don’t think I was believed!

Monday 21 April is a Bank Holiday, and as is usual on such days, there will be just **one Mass** celebrated in St James’s, at **10am**, after which the church will be closed for the rest of the day.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our Easter ceremonies so beautiful and so memorable. Thanks to the musicians, the altar servers, the readers, the M.C., the sacristan, those whose feet were washed, those who serve refreshments in the Social Centre after the 10.30 Mass, those who staff the Repository and everyone who helped to arrange the marvellous flowers that decorate the altar of repose on Holy Thursday and the main sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Every year a huge effort goes into making these beautiful ceremonies so dignified, and that effort is very much appreciated.

Next Sunday is kept as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, because the Gospel proclaimed on that day, from Chapter 20 of Saint John’s Gospel, is considered the moment of institution of the sacrament of reconciliation, or Confession. “*If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld*”. **Devotions associated with Saint Faustina Kowalska** will be held at Saint James’s Church from **2pm to 4pm** and will lead into the **4pm Mass celebrated once again by Monsignor Keith Barltrop**, parish priest of Saint Mary of the Angels in Bayswater. There will be opportunity for Confession during the devotions.

This same 4pm Mass on **Sunday 27 April** will see the return of the **children’s liturgy** in the Social Centre beneath the church. **First Holy Communion classes** start up again on **26 April**. The monthly **Mass with the Young Adults** takes place at **noon on Sunday 27 April**.

As Easter this year is later than usual, we are already well into spring and the weather is better than it often is when we emerge from Lent. Father John and I wish all our parishioners a joyful and blessed Easter season.

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.

Please **DO NOT** give money to those begging on the steps or at the church gates, as we have established charities who operate here four nights a week. We ask all parishioners - and visitors - to keep a close eye on their belongings. **DO NOT** leave bags unattended when approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion - it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.