

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237. Thank you so much for your support.



**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.

*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.

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

**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 to the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

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**

WRCDF St James Spanish Place

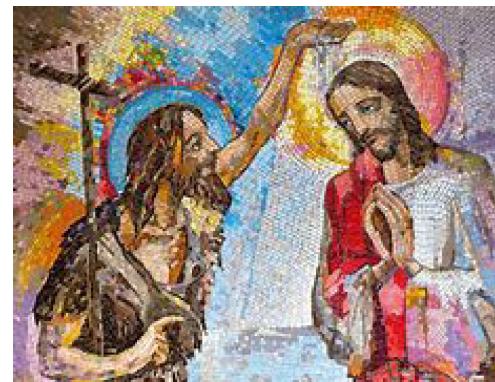
Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



**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



**THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD**  
*11<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

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

The LATIN responses for the Solemn Mass pages 77/78 in the Mass Book.

**TODAY'S LITURGY**  
*Parish Mass Book - page 118*

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

'Behold my servant,  
in whom my soul delights.'

**The LORD will bless  
his people with peace.**

**Acts 10:34-38**

'God anointed Jesus  
with the Holy Spirit.'

**Matthew 3:13-17**

'When Jesus was baptised  
he saw the Spirit of God  
coming to rest on him.'

**The Week Ahead**  
**Sunday Cycle Year A Weekdays Year II**  
Mass on weekdays at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

**M 12<sup>th</sup> feria** [Week 1 in Ordinary Time]

**T 13<sup>th</sup> feria**

**W 14<sup>th</sup> feria**

**T 15<sup>th</sup> feria**

**F 16<sup>th</sup> feria**

**S 17<sup>th</sup> St Anthony** 10.00am

**Vigil Mass of Sunday** 6pm

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am and 9am[1962]  
**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](mailto:spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk) Web: [www.sjrc.org.uk](http://www.sjrc.org.uk)

**Church opens at 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 feast of the Lord's Baptism**, marks the end of the Christmas season. From Monday we will be back to the green vestments associated with Ordinary Time. The season is so called not because it is unimportant - far from it - but because it lacks a particular focus on one dimension of the mystery of salvation. During the Christmas season, we focused on the birth of the Lord and his infancy. During Ordinary Time we consider the entire mystery of salvation.

The Baptism of the Lord is recounted in all four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Our Lord's public ministry, an end to the "*hidden years*" spent in Nazareth. It is a moment of revelation of his identity and mission, expressed as the voice of the Father is heard from heaven and the Spirit is seen descending upon Jesus in the form of a dove. It is the first of the "*mysteries of light*" added to the rosary by Pope John Paul II early in the present century.

**Next Sunday** we will be offering our **official farewell to Father John**. There will be an opportunity to thank him and to say good-bye in the Social Centre after the 10.30am Mass. Those who would like to make a contribution to our farewell gift to him may do so on the contactless machines in the church. Admittedly, at the time of writing, there is no wi-fi connection anywhere on the premises, which renders the contactless machines ineffective. Apologies to anyone who has tried unsuccessfully to access the streaming facility during the week, because this only works when wi-fi is available, which we hope will be soon.

Shortly after Father John's farewell, we will be joined by **Father Domenico Lando**, the Italian priest who will be assisting in the parish for three years beginning in February 2026. I am sure you will all want to make him welcome. His first Sunday with us will be 25 January, which sees the **Young Adults** returning at the **midday Mass** after a Christmas break. We are particularly indebted to Father John for helping to launch this group 12 months ago.

We have been asked to draw attention to two retreats arranged for young adults in the near future:

**Vocation Discernment Retreat in Rome** (Women only, ages 18–30) 27 February – 1 March 2026. A discernment retreat with the Religious of the Assumption, offering time for prayer, reflection, and spiritual accompaniment in the heart of the Church. Cost: £100 plus travel. For more information or to register, email [vocations@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:vocations@assumpta-eu.org)

**Young Adults Discernment Retreat** in Aylesford Priory, Kent (Men & Women, ages 18–30) 6–8 February 2026. Held at Aylesford Priory, the ancient home of the Carmelites, this weekend offers space to step away from daily busyness for prayer, reflection, and community, in partnership with the Religious of the Assumption and the Carmelite Friars. Cost: £200. For more information or to register, email [vocations@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:vocations@assumpta-eu.org)

Next Sunday is designated "**Peace Sunday**" and there will be an opportunity to donate to Pax Christi, the Catholic charity that promotes justice, peace and non-violence in the world. Information about its activities can be found at [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk) and there is also an opportunity to donate directly via this website. Those who prefer to use the church's contactless machines may do so, by selecting the "**Pax Christi**" option. Please note that it is not possible to apply Gift Aid to such donations, as they are technically donations to St James's Church of sums that we undertake to forward to Pax Christi.

Next Sunday is also the first day of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (cf. <https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html> for more information). Since 1908, this week of prayer has been celebrated from 18 to 25 January. This year, the prayers have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, one of the oldest Christian communities in the world.

Towards the end of the Week of Prayer, on Saturday 24 January, six adult candidates from our parish will be confirmed at Westminster Cathedral by Bishop Jim Curry. They can be assured of our prayerful support as they take this important step in their lives of faith. **The teenagers who are preparing to be confirmed here at St James's this year will begin their classes on Sunday 25 January.** Meanwhile, the First Holy Communion classes have already begun and the **children's liturgy starts up again this weekend, during the 4pm Mass.**

The **RCIA** candidates are now preparing for the **Rite of Election in Westminster Cathedral on 21 February**, when they will be formally welcomed by our new Archbishop, Richard Moth, who will have been installed the previous weekend.

Meanwhile, our previous Archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has been taking part in the Extraordinary Consistory that Pope Leo summoned to Rome in recent days. The Cardinals from all over the world reflected together on the Church's mission in today's world and on synodality as a means of discerning the way the Lord is calling the Church to move forward. It was a great honour for us in this country that the most recently appointed English Cardinal, Timothy Radcliffe OP, was chosen to give an address at the start of the meeting, in which he reminded the Cardinals of the importance "*of not leaving the successor of Peter alone as he faces the storms of the world*". A further Consistory has been convoked in June 2026, when the Cardinals will continue their deliberations.

Let us pray that we all continue to listen to "*what the Spirit is saying to the Churches*" (Rev 2:7), so that the Father's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Philip Whitmore**

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**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.

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