

# St James's Roman Catholic Church

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

## Laetare Sunday

LENT IV

30th March 2025

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

Responses for Solemn Mass  
pages 77/78 in the Mass Book



## TODAY'S LITURGY

[*Parish Mass Book* page 168]

### Joshua 5:9a-12

*The people of God entered the  
promised land and there kept  
the Passover*

**Taste and see  
that the Lord is good.**

### 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*'God who through Christ  
reconciled us to himself.'*

### Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*'Your brother was dead,  
and is alive.'*

### *The Week Ahead*

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I  
Masses at 12.30pm and 6pm

Mon 31st	Lent feria
Tues 1st April	Lent feria
Wed 2nd	Lent feria
Thur 3rd	Lent feria
Fri 4th	Lent feria
Sat 5th	Lent feria (10am)

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 6th April 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
8am, 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*)

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Part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust

Registration No: 233699

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).

**T**hose interested, or wanting further information, contact the parish office.

## The St Vincent de Paul Society

wishes to thank you for your generous support and donations to our February 2025 appeal. We have been in receipt of nearly **£3,000** so far. This will go towards helping the homeless and low paid communities which we serve. A very special thank you to those who have promised to contribute monthly to our efforts. We are here to answer any questions you may have about our services and efforts.

**All enquiries 07814510991 (WhatsApp or text)**

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 subsequent**' donations.



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.



## The Rector writes . . . . .

This weekend the clocks go forward, and we celebrate **Lætare Sunday**, mid-Lent Sunday, a day of rejoicing when the liturgical colour is lightened from purple to rose and the organ makes itself heard once again (not the main organ, of course, but the small accompanying instrument that has been in use since the main one was taken away). The name Lætare comes from the Introit for the day, “*Rejoice, Jerusalem*”, which develops the idea of Jerusalem as a mother. Hence the tradition of keeping this Sunday as Mother’s Day, or Mothering Sunday as it was once called. Grateful prayers and good wishes for all mothers, young and old, alive and deceased. We owe them a great deal.

This Sunday also sees the annual **mission appeal**, led by the **Comboni Missionaries**, or **Verona Fathers** as they are often known. Members of this missionary congregation will be speaking at all Masses and a retiring collection will be taken in support of their work. Their 19th-century founder, the Italian priest and bishop Saint Daniele Comboni, felt a strong call to bring the Gospel to Africa, and since that time his congregation has spread throughout the world. I know you will be eager to support the Appeal.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously contributed to our own Parish Appeal since November. Many others have pledged to donate by the end of the tax year, which is coming up very soon now, next weekend, on 5 April. Should all these gifts arrive, we will probably close our Appeal in the coming weeks. I will update you on the success of our fundraising and on the status of the work being carried out on our main church organ and heating upgrade in early May.

Last weekend’s collection for **CAFOD** brought in a handsome **£2869.03** for which many thanks. This obviously does not include donations that were sent directly to CAFOD, so all in all it was a very successful appeal. Thank you for the support that you give to so many charities, especially those that benefit our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Many will have seen from last week’s newsletter that the **Assisted Dying bill** is passing through Parliament once again, for its third reading. **Next Sunday there will be a Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Nichols** on the subject, focusing particularly on the limited Parliamentary time that has been allotted to this bill. It is a matter of concern for all who care about quality of life and quality of medical care in our society. We are urged once again to contact our MP, even if we did so earlier in the process.

Wednesday of this coming week will be the **20th anniversary** of the death of **Pope Saint John Paul II**, who offered the world a shining example of living through terminal illness with dignity. We thank the Lord that he has now been raised to the altars, so we are invited to turn to him in prayer for our world, particularly in view of unhappy developments in recent times. It was of course the then Dean of the College of Cardinals who presided at his funeral, and was subsequently elected to the Papacy as Pope Benedict XVI, in April 2025. The 20th anniversary of his election will be on Holy Saturday this year, which seems fortuitous, since Holy Saturday in 1927 was the day of his birth.

Many parishioners will be saddened by the news of the death last Sunday of **Eduardo Barrachina Garcia**, after a long battle with cancer. Eduardo worked hard to develop the links between this church and his native Spain, both of which he loved dearly. The increased representation from the Spanish Embassy on Saint James’s Day in recent years is largely his achievement. So too, the reading in Spanish that has featured in the celebrations of our patronal feast has often been delivered by him, so many of you will have seen him on those occasions even without ever having had occasion to speak with him. His **funeral will take place at 2pm next Saturday, 5 April**, here in Saint James’s Church.

The previous day, **Friday 4 April**, is the **first Friday** of the month, when it is our custom to expose the **Blessed Sacrament for adoration** throughout the afternoon. Those who are able to make a commitment to be present for a part of the period of adoration are encouraged to sign their names on the list at the back of the church, so that we can ensure that the Sacrament is never left unattended. The Friday evening Mass will be followed, as usual in Lent, by Stations of the Cross. The following Friday, though, in place of Stations, there will be a devotional performance of Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, beginning at 7pm. In this way we anticipate the celebration of Holy Week, which begins just two days later. Flyers with the times of all our Holy Week and Easter services should be ready by next weekend

**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 if you have the time.

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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 to receive Communion, it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

**Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.**  
**On Saturday a priest is available 4.45pm-5.30pm.**

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**Safeguarding** is an important and indeed crucial part of the life we share as a parish. Should any concerns be felt, **Denise Hines** coordinates our parochial safeguarding, her contact details are as follows: 07597 190301

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**Fridays  
of Lent**

**Stations of the  
Cross** follow the  
6pm Mass



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

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