

The **Social Centre** is best accessed via Blandford Street, the stairs leading directly to the Accessible toilet, where there are **baby changing facilities**, and the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

Children should always be accompanied

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

THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO - REDISCOVERING ITS SONGS

Learning sessions will be on Sunday 4th October (4-6pm Farm Street), Wednesday 14th October (7-9pm Spanish Place). 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] All materials needed will be supplied, and light refreshments will be served at each session. There will be a fee of **£10 per person for participation**, payable online in advance. The sessions will be led by Rafael Montero, founder of El Parnaso Hispano. No prior musical experience is needed, the sessions are open to all. Early expressions of interest may be made by email to Lucy Williams (lucycw01@yahoo.co.uk - Spanish Place).

Message from the Good Counsel Network

To help us raise funds (we really need to raise £8,000 pounds in the immediate future) one of our staff, Nathanael, will be walking 27 miles in one day on the **16th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage**. Every donation will help. We are here to assist Mothers in difficult pregnancies and afterwards with financial help, practical support, baby goods and friendship. So please do sponsor Nathanael - *you can donate here; <https://gofund.me/f48d1981c>*

Room Sought: Quiet professional/St James parishioner seeks room for 6-12 months. Trainee pilot, regular hours. Known to Parish Priest; references available. Contact 07432 474060.

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



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

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.



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 an extra 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).

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY in Ordinary Time

19th July 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
pages 73/4 in the green Parish Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Mass Book page 105]

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
'You gave repentance for sins.'

O Lord,
you are good
and forgiving.

Romans 8:26-27
'The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.'

Matthew 13:24-43
'Let both grow together until the harvest.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 20th feria
T 21st feria
W 22nd St MARY MAGDALENE
T 23rd St BRIDGET OF SWEDEN
F 24th feria [No 6pm]

7pm Vigil Mass of St James

S 25th St JAMES 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm
26th July 2026

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

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

Our patronal feast of Saint James falls in the coming week. For us, it is a Solemnity, which means that the festivities begin the previous evening. Since the feast itself falls on a Saturday, it is rather convenient that we are able to celebrate a **Vigil Mass at 7pm** the previous evening (**Friday 24 July**), when Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be our celebrant and homilist. We will be joined by a delegation from the Spanish Embassy, as this is the occasion more than any other when we recall our historic links with Spain - we began life as the Spanish Embassy Chapel, which is why we are dedicated to the patron saint of Spain, Saint James, whose relics are conserved and venerated in northern Spain at Santiago de Compostela.

The shrine of Saint James in northern Spain was one of the three great medieval centres of pilgrimage, along with Rome and Jerusalem, and even now there are many people who walk the “*camino*”, the pilgrim way to Compostela. Some of the recently discovered pilgrim songs that were sung on the camino by medieval pilgrims will be performed once again during a “*mini-pilgrimage*” from Farm Street Church to our own church on the morning of Saturday 17 October. See elsewhere on the newsletter for further details.

We are honoured to be joined by the current **Lord Mayor of Westminster** for the feast of Saint James. She (**Councillor Karen Scarborough**) is a governor of Saint Vincent’s School and a local councillor, so hers will be a familiar face to many. One of her predecessors, Councillor Robert Rigby, will be accompanying her, and as well as being a governor of our primary school, he is a member of the Parish Finance Committee.

There are a number of liturgical feasts coming up next week. Wednesday is the feast of **Saint Mary Magdalene** (elevated from a memorial to a feast by Pope Francis in 2016). Venerated as the “*apostle of the apostles*”, because she brought the news of the Resurrection to the Twelve, she is known to have been especially close to Our Lord. Tradition identifies her with the person who poured perfume over his feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee, and the sister of Lazarus and Martha. As Cardinal Arthur Roche has said, comparing her with Eve, “*I would like to show the difference between the two women present in the garden of Paradise, and in the garden of the Resurrection. The first disseminates death where there was life, and the second proclaims Life from a tomb, the place of death.*” As she is the patron saint of my college in Oxford, there are likely to be great celebrations there too.

The following day, 23 July, is the feast of **Saint Bridget**, co-patroness of Europe since 1999 (cf. https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/motu_proprio/documents/hf_jp-ii_motu-proprio_01101999_co-patronesses-europe.html), and of the order of Bridgettine nuns who wear a distinctive habit including a crown with an indication of Our Lord’s five wounds (the nearest community is at Iver Heath, just across the diocesan border to our west). Saint Bridget lived and died in the house next door to the English College in Rome, and

that house is now the generalate of the latest incarnation of the Bridgettine order. The order has a great devotion to the Passion of Our Lord - hence the crown and the symbols of Our Lord’s wounds - and their motto, taken from Saint Ignatius’s Letter to the Romans is “*Amor meus crucifixus est*” - a nicely ambiguous phrase which could mean either “*My Love has been crucified*” or “*my earthly passions have been crucified.*”

Many of you will have been aware of the Dance School that until this weekend has rented the space below the Lady Chapel. Dancers would sometimes be seen crossing the Social Centre with a view to accessing the same facilities that are available to churchgoers. A piece of news that may be of interest is that the Dance School has opted to bring the rental agreement to an end with effect from this weekend. It was already planned both to upgrade the toilet facilities available to churchgoers and to install toilet facilities available to the users of the space below the Lady Chapel, so that they would no longer need to cross the Social Centre. These upgrades are still planned, even though they will benefit principally subsequent users of the former Dance School, who may well be our own choir. Watch this space, where further details will be publicised as and when they are known.

Many of you will be aware of the excellent work done by the **Good Counsel Network** in accompanying mothers experiencing unwanted pregnancies. **The McCullough family** are very much involved with this charity, as indeed they are with promoting the cause of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, the well-known Catholic journalist and apologist who flourished around a century ago. The Good Counsel Network is struggling for funds, and with this in mind, Nathanael McCullough, one of our younger parishioners and a staff member of the Network, will be walking 27 miles in one day for the **16th Annual G.K. Chesterton Pilgrimage (Saturday 1 August 2026)**. Every donation will help. So please do sponsor Nathanael as he raises funds to help save unborn babies from abortion. You can donate here; <https://gofund.me/f48d1981c>. Further details can be found on posters in the porch and elsewhere in this newsletter.

Next weekend, we will be joined once again by **Father John Njorteah**, who will be staying in the parish for just over two weeks. I am sure that many parishioners will be happy to see him again and to wish him well for his new mission in his native Nigeria. In the meantime, do keep cool in this current heatwave!

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.
