The Children's Liturgy takes place at the 4pm Mass and will run now until 13th December.

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

Requests for "special orders" can be made via email to Spanishplace repository@rcdow.org.uk

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

Retreat Day, led by Fr Domenico, on Saturday **5 December.**

Please DO NOT give money to those begging on the steps or at the 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 - it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

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

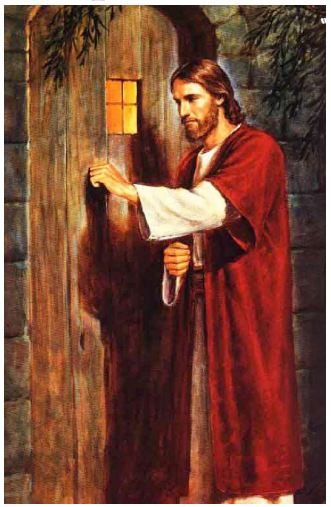
We have **'one-off' Gift Aid envelopes** at various locations in church for cash offerings at Sunday Mass. ***Please complete all sections*** before ticking **'This'** or **'all subsequent'**

Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, or by using the QR code.

We lack the contact details for a number of generous donors whose gifts come directly 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 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 also backdate a claim by up to 4 years (if we have sufficient evidence).

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



ADVENT SUNDAY
29th November 2026

Foreign language sheets are available at the back of the church.
LATIN responses for the Solemn Mass 77/8 in the **yellow** Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY
[*Mass Book* page 82]

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:1, 3b-8
`O that you would rend the heavens and come down.'

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
We are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 13:33-37
`Stay awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come.'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year B Weekday Cycle I
Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M **30th** St ANDREW
T **1st** *Advent feria*
W **2nd** *Advent feria*
T **3rd** St Francis Xavier
F **4th** *Advent feria*
S **5th** *Advent feria* **10am**

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

6th December 2026
ADVENT II

8am, 9am [1962]
10.30am [Solemn Latin]
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

PARISH CAROL SERVICE WEDNESDAY 16th at 7pm

Monsignor Philip Whitmore *(Rector)*
Father Domenico Lando

Telephone: 020 7935 0943 [Parish Office: 020 3475 9097]
Email: spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk Web: **www.sjrcc.org.uk**

Part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust Registration No: 233699

The Rector writes . . . . . .

A new church year begins as we enter the **season of Advent,** a time of spiritual preparation for the great feast of Christmas. The secular world tells us that Christmas began long ago, although we know this is not actually the case - the season of spiritual preparation is only just beginning. Although it is not a penitential season like Lent, there is nevertheless a subdued tone to the liturgy during Advent, and it is a good time to prepare for Christmas by celebrating the sacrament of Confession. The liturgical colour is purple and the Sunday liturgy lacks a Gloria. Here at Saint James's we adopt the tradition of lighting five candles on an Advent wreath, one for each week of Advent and one for Christmas itself.

Nevertheless, it is hard to resist the pressure to anticipate to some degree the celebration of Christmas. The outdoor crib on George Street will be erected in just over a week from now. Moreover, we have been asked to advertise a pre-Christmas event taking place at **Westminster Cathedral** on **Monday 7 December,** namely the ***"carols by candlelight"*** to be held under the auspices of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. The evening will begin at 6.30pm in the Cathedral Hall, before moving to the Lady Chapel for carols, followed by festive refreshments back in the Hall. Tickets, costing £30 each, may be obtained at https://shorturl.at/7l8Sr or by e-mail from friends@rcdow.org.uk.

Our own parish carol service comes slightly later in the month, on **Wednesday 16 December.** Please note the date and come if you can. Flyers with details of all the Christmas events and services are now available at the back of the church. If you expect to be here during the Christmas period, please take one away with you.

In just a few days from now we enter the month of December. On **Thursday 3rd,** the date of his death in 1552, we remember **Saint Francis Xavier,** the great Jesuit missionary who brought the Gospel to the Far East. He is venerated particularly in Goa, where he restored Christianity among the Portuguese settlers. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux are the patron saints of the missions. A relic of Saint Francis Xavier, namely his right forearm, is venerated at the principal Jesuit church in Rome, the Gesù. This is the arm that he used to baptise countless people in India and China and other places to which he travelled as a missionary.

That same evening, Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm, there is to be another event in Westminster Cathedral Hall when Chris Trott, the former British Ambassador to the Holy See, will give a talk entitled: 'Serving His Majesty in the Holy See – 5 years in Rome'. Tickets, costing £10, including refreshments, can be obtained from the Friends of the Cathedral, as indicated above.

Although **Friday 4 December** will be the first Friday of the month, it will not be possible to expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration, as a rehearsal will be taking place that afternoon in the church for the concert in the evening, when the **Orion Orchestra and Choir will perform Handel's Messiah.** Tickets can be obtained from Eventbrite. This ever popular work is often performed in the period leading up to Christmas, although only the first of the three parts presents the Christmas story. The second part takes us to the Crucifixion and the third part to the Resurrection, so the entire mystery of Christ is laid before us.

We are instructed that extended periods of Exposition should be held *"only if it is seen that there will be a reasonable number of the faithful"*. This is why we invite members of the faithful to sign timed slots on the sheets at the back of the church to guarantee their presence. Sadly, there were not a sufficient number of signatures on the first Friday of November, so we were obliged to limit the period of Exposition. The first Friday in January is New Year's Day, but if sufficient interest is shown, it may be possible to expose the Sacrament for adoration on the following Friday, 8 January.

On **Saturday 5 December,** there is to be a **retreat day for the Young Adults,** led by Fr Domenico. The day will include guided prayer, scripture reflection and Ignatian meditation, and will conclude with Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. The retreat is free of charge; however, those interested are kindly requested to sign up in advance so that the right number of materials and refreshments can be provided. To secure your place or for any further questions, please contact Lucy (07710 980857), preferably before this weekend is out.

Next weekend, there is to be an **Appeal for Aid to the Church in Need,** with collections taking place after each Mass. During the 10.30 Mass next Sunday, Father Dominic Robinson SJ, formerly parish priest of the Immaculate Conception church, Farm Street, and now Catholic Chaplain to Oxford University, will deliver the Appeal. This is not one of the mandatory annual appeals, but it has been specifically requested by ACN, a charity well-known to our parishioners. Trade items from the Holy Land, as well as devotional items from Nigeria, Ukraine and Syria, will be on sale at the back of the church after each Mass.

The children's liturgy continues until the third Sunday of Advent, after which it will cease for the Christmas holidays. The children from Saint Vincent's School will be coming to Saint James's for their Christmas celebration on the afternoon of Thursday 10 December. It is always a pleasure to see them in church, as they bring such vitality to our community. And Christmas is a time when we focus particularly on the younger generation.

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.