

MONDAY 26th May is a BANK HOLIDAY - Mass at 10am ONLY
after which the church will close [therefore no confessions]

Reminder: The crypt is best accessed via the staircase on the Blandford Street side of the church, leading 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 to 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.**

*Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – **Retrouvaille** could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443*

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.



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.

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

25th May 2025

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

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

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 267]

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

'It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.'

**Let the peoples praise you,
O God; let all the peoples
praise you.**

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

'He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.'

John 14:23-29

'The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 26th St Philip Neri
T 27th S AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
W 28th Easter feria [6pm VIGIL]
T 29th ASCENSION OF THE LORD
F 30th Easter feria
S 31st Visitation of BVM 10am
Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

1st June 2025
**SEVENTH SUNDAY
of EASTER**

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]

The Rector writes

‘Walking along the shore, he had called Peter and the other first disciples to be, like him, “fishers of men”. Now, after the resurrection, it is up to them to carry on this mission, to cast their nets again and again, to bring the hope of the Gospel into the “waters” of the world, to sail the seas of life so that all may experience God’s embrace.’

Those are the words of our new Pope, Leo XIV, spoken during the homily at his Mass of inauguration last Sunday. He has made it clear that he wishes to promote love and unity within the Church. He brings his experience as a missionary and as an Augustinian to the task of uniting the Church and bringing peace to our divided world. Many will be watching to see what stance he adopts on many of the key issues facing the Church today. He seems to be biding his time, postponing for the time being the kind of decisions that risk polarising opinion and emphasising instead his role as a promoter of unity and communion.

This Sunday, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, is kept as a Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians. Pope Leo’s prayers for peace have a particular urgency in the context of Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The Catholic charity FACE (Fellowship and Aid to Christians of the East) makes this prayer: *‘We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Palestinian territories and Ukraine, and in all places where there is conflict. May the Christians in these lands be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue steadfastly to give witness to Jesus Christ.’* Those who wish to contribute to the work of the charity may do so by visiting <https://facecharity.org>.

Next Sunday, **1 June**, is **World Communications Day**, for which the annual message was published by Pope Francis back in January. Addressed principally to journalists and professional communicators, the message picks up on the theme of hope, which is so central to the current Jubilee. Pope Francis said this: *‘I encourage you to discover and make known the many stories of goodness hidden in the folds of the news, imitating those gold-prospectors who tirelessly sift the sand in search of a tiny nugget. It is good to seek out such seeds of hope and make them known. It helps our world to be a little less deaf to the cry of the poor; a little less indifferent, a little less closed in on itself.’* **There will be a collection after all Masses next Sunday for the Catholic Communications Network**, an agency of the Bishops’ Conference in England and Wales.

Monday of this coming week is a **Bank Holiday, with one Mass only, at 10am, after which the church will close.** It is also the liturgical memorial of Saint Philip Neri, the 16th-century Apostle of Rome. Saint Philip has a particular relevance for us, inasmuch as his devotional evenings for young people in Rome in a room known as the *“oratorio”* were the origin both of the musical genre known by that name and of the Congregation of the Oratory, magnificently represented in nearby Brompton. It was Saint John Henry Newman, our most recent English saint, who brought the Congregation of the Oratory to England.

Then on Tuesday we have the feast of our own **Saint Augustine**, not the Father of the Church much quoted by our new Pope, but the missionary monk sent by Pope Gregory the Great to evangelise the English. Saint Augustine of Canterbury, founder of the see in that city, is commemorated in a beautiful shrine church at Ramsgate, close to where he landed on our shores in the late 6th century. The importance of Augustine’s arrival for English Christianity was not lost on the 19th-century architect Augustus Welby Pugin, who chose to make his home in Ramsgate. Further information regarding the shrine may be found at <https://www.augustine-pugin.org.uk>.

Thursday of this week is **Ascension Thursday**, the great feast of the exaltation of the risen Jesus to the Father’s right hand. As it is a **Holyday of Obligation**, there will be additional opportunities to attend Mass, including a **7.15am** celebration on the day itself and a further celebration according to the Missal of 1962 at **11am** on Thursday. The **Vigil Mass on Wednesday** evening also fulfils the obligation. On Thursday at the 6pm Mass, the Choir will be singing.

Saturday brings to an end the month of May with a great feast of Our Lady, the feast of the Visitation, which we celebrate as the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. On receiving from the angel Gabriel the astonishing news that she was to become the Mother of God, Mary made haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was soon to give birth to Saint John the Baptist. The visit is commemorated in Saturday’s feast.

For Saint Vincent’s School, this week is the half-term holiday, when many of our families choose to travel. Accordingly there is no children’s liturgy at Saint James’s Church until Pentecost Sunday, two weeks from now. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, volunteers are invited to assist with the children’s liturgy. If interested, please send a message to spanishplacecat@rcdow.org.uk. The parish Confirmations and the First Holy Communions have now taken place. We pray for our young people who have taken such an important step forward on their journey of faith, and we commend them to the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and Saint James.

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.

Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.(Not 26th)
A priest is available from 4.45pm - 5.30pm on Saturdays

The Church opens 8am weekdays and 9am Saturdays
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