

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

Children should always be accompanied

Safeguarding is an important - and indeed crucial - part of the life we share as a parish. It is a fundamental of human justice that the dignity of every person, most especially the young and the vulnerable, should never be compromised. **Denise Hines** [07597 190301] coordinates our parochial safeguarding, her email contact details are as follows: Spanishplacesg@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk should any concerns be felt.

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.



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.



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

St James's Roman Catholic Church - Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 16th August 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 73/4 in the green Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY [Mass Book page 178 (vigil 176)]

Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab
'A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.'

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

1 Corinthians 15:20-27
'Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.'

Luke 1:39-56
'He who is mighty has done great things for me; he has exalted those of humble estate.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 17th feria
T 18th feria
W 19th feria
T 20th St Bernard
F 21st St Pius X
S 22nd Queenship of Mary 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

23rd August 2026
XXIst Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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 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).

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

This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, not on the traditional date, which would have been 15 August, but on Sunday 16 August. This is because the Bishops of England and Wales have decreed then when a Holyday of Obligation, such as this, falls on a Saturday or a Monday, it is celebrated on the nearest Sunday and the obligation is transferred to that day. So Saturday is a ferial day, while Sunday is the feast, at least in this country. Any parishioners who find themselves abroad, particularly in a traditionally Catholic country, will find that the feast is celebrated on Saturday. In Catholic countries, 15 August is often a public holiday, whereas that is manifestly not the case in this country.

Coming up on **Thursday** of this coming week is the liturgical memorial of **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux**, a French monastic reformer from the 12th century, well known for his spiritual writings and his devotion to Our Blessed Lady. Although not the founder of the Cistercian order of monks, he is associated with the reform of the order early in its history and is greatly venerated in Cistercian communities. Indeed, the one Cistercian Abbey in England is Mount Saint Bernard's Abbey in Leicestershire. Cistercian abbeys are known for austerity, both in their architecture and in their manner of life.

Friday sees the liturgical memorial of the first canonized Pope in modern times, **Saint Pius X**, who occupied the Chair of Peter from 1903 until 1914. It was he who appointed our own Rafael Merry del Val as Secretary of State, as readers of the recent biography, *"A Cardinal for the Ages"*, available from the Repository at Spanish Place, will know. Pope Pius undertook a number of liturgical reforms, and he is particularly associated with the encouragement of frequent Communion and with lowering the age of First Holy Communion so as to encourage young children to receive the Sacrament.

Saturday is another feast of Our Lady, the **Queenship of Mary**. It falls on the octave day of the Assumption, or at least, the octave of the day that is normally kept as the Assumption. While the latter is the subject of the fourth glorious mystery of the Rosary, the feast of Our Lady's Queenship is the subject of the final glorious mystery, illustrated beautifully in the stained-glass windows of our own Lady Chapel.

Astonishingly, we are now half-way through the month of August. Soon it will be time for schools to reopen. The new academic year will see some changes in the governance of our primary school, Saint Vincent's, since at the start of this month it formally converted to academy status and has now joined the Saint John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust. It is not anticipated that this change will give rise to many visible changes, but it will subtly transform the way the school is governed, and in particular, it is seen as a way of guaranteeing its future in view of the likely decline in the number of children seeking admission in the years ahead. The Diocese of Westminster has been encouraging all its Catholic schools to join academy trusts in order to safeguard them in the future.

Parents eager to secure a place for their children in a Catholic school may well be asked for a **certificate of Catholic practice** supplied by their local parish. If you would like us to supply one, there are forms available at the back of the church which you should take away and complete, before returning them to the parish office. They include a space for the celebrant at the Sunday Mass you attend to confirm that you were present on each of three consecutive Sundays.

Forms for enrolment in the parish's sacramental programmes, that is to say for First Holy Communion, teenage Confirmation and the course for adults wishing to know more about the Catholic faith, will be **available from September** at the back of the church and on the website and they should be returned to the parish office, duly completed, by the first weekend in October.

There is always a need for voluntary service in parish life, and many parishioners, new and old, will be looking for ways in which they could offer their services. We are in constant need of readers, collectors, catechists, altar servers, cleaners, counters of the collection, and indeed helpers of all kinds. Although a manual list was compiled in the past, the time has come for it to be digitalized and updated, so there will soon be a fresh invitation to come forward. So watch this space, and thank you in advance for your readiness to be of service.

We are particularly grateful to those who facilitate the meetings of the Young Adults group, one of the growth areas of parish life, and we would remind readers of the **mini-pilgrimage from Farm Street to St James's** scheduled for **17 October**, which the Young Adults are helping to organize. Some of the songs sung on the medieval pilgrimage to Santiago will be performed on this occasion, which is why booking is needed in advance, as well as attendance at one or two rehearsals before the day. Booking is now open at <http://bit.ly/caminosongs1>.

Finally, news often reaches the parish clergy at rather a late stage that there are **housebound parishioners** who would welcome home visits and the opportunity to receive sacraments at home. This is very much part of the service that parish offers, so if you or those known to you resident in the parish are in need of a service of this kind, do let us know. In the meantime, Father Domenico and I wish you every blessing during the summer months.

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.
