

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

PENTECOST

24th May 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 77/8 in the (orange) Mass Book

The Week Ahead

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

M 25th Mary, Mother of the Church
MASS at 10am ONLY
No Confessions

T 26th St Philip Neri
W 27th St AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
T 28th OLC the ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
F 29th St Paul VI
S 30th *BVM on Saturday 10am*

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

31st MAY 2026
TRINITY SUNDAY

8am and 9am [1962]

10.30am [*Solemn Latin*]
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

Reminder: The hall is best accessed via the Blandford Street staircase, leading directly to the Accessible 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

Room Sought: Quiet professional/St James parishioner seeks room for 6–12 months. Trainee pilot, regular hours. Budget £600pcm. Known to Parish Priest; references available. Contact Ousi: 07432 474060.

Lough Derg Pilgrimage: 23–26 July. 3-day penitential trip to St Patrick's Purgatory, Ireland. See flyers or contact Clare (Tangney Tours): 01732 886666 / clare@tangney-tours.com. Info: 07733 223903. Book by second week of June.



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

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 can be made AT LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



We have no contact details for a number of generous donors. 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% on donations (offertory, candles, mass intentions) from HMRC and costs NOTHING (apart from a signature). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form; we can even backdate claims by up to 4 years.

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 288]

Acts 2:1-11
'They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.'

**Send forth your spirit,
O Lord, and renew the
face of the earth.**

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13
'In one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.'

John 20:19-23
'As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.'

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@sjrcc.org.uk Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

We have come to **Pentecost Sunday**, the last day of the Easter season, the day when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, gathered in the Upper Room after the Lord's Ascension. It was the Spirit who empowered them to go out into the world as courageous missionaries, carrying out the Lord's instructions to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (cf Mt 28:19-20). It is virtually the only day in the Church's year when the Holy Spirit is centre stage, so we do well to focus clearly on this third person of the Blessed Trinity, the source of the Church's life and love, who preserves her in the truth of the Gospel. The scene commemorated on the day of Pentecost is beautifully illustrated in our church in the opus sectile panel behind the tabernacle and in the top panel of the middle stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel, as it is the Third Glorious Mystery of the rosary.

Red is the colour of the Holy Spirit, often portrayed as fire. Every Mass of Pentecost (apart from the Vigil) has a sequence before the Gospel, the *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, which contains the wonderful lines: "*Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.*" We could all do with a fresh outpouring of the Spirit's gifts, to sharpen our focus on the things of God. As on Easter Sunday, the dismissal at the end of Mass, as well as its response, concludes with a double alleluia. As we come to the end of the Easter season on this day, it is the last day for which the Paschal candle remains on the sanctuary and the last day when we sing the *Regina Cæli* as our Marian antiphon. Once we are back in Ordinary Time, we return to the *Salve Regina* and we pray the *Angelus* three times a day.

It will be some time before we return to the liturgical colour of green, though, as the coming week is full of feasts. **Monday**, the day after Pentecost, is devoted to **Mary, Mother of the Church**. It was Pope Francis, in 2018, who added this memorial to the liturgical calendar on the day after Pentecost, in order to encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety. **Tuesday** of this week is the liturgical memorial of **Saint Philip Neri**, Apostle of Rome, a particularly joyous saint and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory. We pray particularly on that day for our friends at the Oratory in Brompton, including our own Matteo Scattola, a novice in that community. **Wednesday** is a national feast - when we commemorate **Saint Augustine of Canterbury**, who brought the faith from Rome to the Anglo-Saxons in our land. And **Thursday** is another national feast - **Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest** - inserted into our national calendar for the Thursday after Pentecost just over ten years ago. On **Friday** we commemorate the saintly **Pope Paul VI**, and on Saturday, we resume our practice, followed throughout Ordinary Time, of celebrating the Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Not to be forgotten is that this coming Monday is not only the liturgical memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church - in this country, it is also a Bank

Holiday. Those with memories as long as mine will remember when it was known as "*Whit Monday*", tied to "*Whit Sunday*", which was the traditional name for Pentecost. As Pentecost itself moves backwards and forwards in line with Easter, it seemed prudent to the secular powers to detach the Bank Holiday from Pentecost and to make it always the last Monday in May, designated "*Late Spring Bank Holiday*", although this year, the last Monday in May happily coincides with the Monday after Pentecost, as in the past. **As on most Bank Holidays, the church will be closed after the 10am Mass.**

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday, formerly the conclusion of the Pentecost Octave, although the reforms of the calendar have removed the Octave. At all Masses next Sunday, there will be an **Appeal made by the Spiritan Fathers**, which is the annual Mission Appeal. Parishioners will remember that last year we had an Appeal from the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) and the previous year it was the Columban Missionaries who spoke. The national Bishops Conference chooses a missionary congregation each year and asks each parish to arrange an Appeal at a convenient point during the year. We look forward to hearing more from Father Jerome Dukiya and Father Christian Egemonye about the work of the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers).

(Formerly, in English, the Holy Spirit was frequently referred to as the Holy Ghost, although this had nothing to do with Halloween! Perhaps it is to avoid confusion that this terminology, which I recall from my boyhood, is largely a thing of the past, although we do still encounter it from time to time in older texts.)

Next Sunday, being the last Sunday of the month, is also the day when the Young Adults will be present at the midday Mass. It is most encouraging to see how these young people engage with the faith and how fully they participate in the liturgy. Any young people wishing to be a part of the group may wish to know that, in addition to the monthly Sunday liturgy, they often meet on a Wednesday evening in the Social Centre. Further details can be found by scanning the QR code found elsewhere in this newsletter. The Holy Spirit is very much at work among these young adults, *Deo gratias!*

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.
