



Pergolesi's

Stabat Mater

Friday 6.30pm

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.

Radio Maria England is a Catholic radio station offering prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, and inspiring testimonies — 24 hours a day. A tool for evangelisation and a companion in faith for listeners across the UK.

You can tune in via DAB+ radio, the free Radio Maria Play mobile app, or online at www.radiomariaengland.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.

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

Reminder: The crypt is best accessed via the Blandford Street staircase, which leads directly to the Accessible toilet, where there are baby changing facilities, and to the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

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 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 FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



GIFT AID enables the Parish to claim from HMRC an additional 25% of a donor's gift (offertory, candles, mass intentions) and costs you NOTHING (apart from your signature). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form - if we are able to identify your earlier gifts we can backdate the claim for up to 4 years.

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



LAZARUS COME OUT * * * * * **JN 11.43**

Ezekiel 37:12-14

'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.'

With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Romans 8:8-11

'The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.'

John 11:1-45

'I am the resurrection and the life.'

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd March 2026

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

TODAY'S LITURGY - page 170

The LATIN responses for the Solemn Mass 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book.

The Week Ahead

Sunday Cycle A Weekday Year II
Mass on weekdays at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 23rd Lent Feria
T 24th Lent Feria
W 25th ANNUNCIATION to BVM
T 26th Lent Feria
F 27th Lent Feria
S 28th Lent Feria 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

29th March 2026
PALM SUNDAY
of the PASSION of the LORD
8am and 9am
10.15am 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

Church opens at 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturdays.
Confession between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.
On Saturday a priest is available from 4.45pm - 5.30pm

The Rector writes

We are entering the season formerly known as **Passiontide**. By tradition, statues are veiled in purple from this weekend until the glorious moment of Our Lord's resurrection, which we celebrate at the Easter Vigil. We hear in this Sunday's Gospel about the greatest of the miracles that Our Lord worked before the events of his Passion and death, namely the raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. This indicates that Our Lord had dominion even over death, as would be demonstrated even more clearly in his own resurrection. It is important, though, to remember that Lazarus was simply restored to his earthly life - he would have to die again, whereas Our Saviour's resurrection marked his entry into a new and immortal life. He would never have to die again - indeed, death no longer has dominion over him.

This weekend, after all Masses, we have a collection for the **Diocesan Lenten Appeal**, which is intended to support diocesan initiatives promoting marriage and family life, youth ministry, evangelisation, education and social outreach. I do commend this collection, as it is our opportunity to practise Lenten almsgiving within our own diocese. As mentioned last weekend, there will be a Mass at the Cathedral for married couples celebrating significant anniversaries during May. If this applies to you and if you would like to be present, let us know so that we can forward your names.

The Spring equinox arrives this weekend, marking the formal beginning of the new season. Next weekend, our clocks will go forward, so we will be able to enjoy much lighter evenings for the foreseeable future. This is always a sign that Easter is close.

We have a great feast coming up during the week, namely the **Annunciation**, to be celebrated on Wednesday. It is no coincidence that it comes close to Holy Week. Indeed, the great English metaphysical poet John Donne penned a poem "*The Annunciation and Passion*" in 1608 when the feast of the Annunciation actually fell on Good Friday. He explores the interconnection between these two great events, both associated with this time of year, when new life came into our world. Although it is not a Holyday of Obligation, the feast of the Annunciation is a good occasion to come to Mass, as we recall the great mystery of the Incarnation. Indeed, every time we pray the Angelus, we celebrate the mysteries associated with that day.

As we approach the events of **Holy Week and Easter**, I would like to draw your attention to the times of our **Easter services**, which can be found, not only on the parish website, but also on a **flyer that is now available at the back of the church**. Do please take one away with you if you expect to be here at the time of the Easter feasts. The first event indicated is actually just before the start of Holy Week - namely the devotional performance of **Pergolesi's Stabat Mater on Friday of this coming week at 6.30pm**, immediately after the evening Mass, at the time when Stations of the Cross would normally be celebrated.

Next Sunday launches Holy Week proper, which begins with the blessing of palms and the commemoration of Our Lord's solemn entry into Jerusalem. For

this reason, the 10.30am Mass on **29 March** will begin slightly earlier than usual, with a gathering in **Manchester Mews at 10.15am**. Don't miss the procession, if you are planning to attend that Mass! And don't miss the adjustment of the clocks that will be made during the night before.

This is the time when we remember particularly in our prayers the eight catechumens who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil as well as those to be received into the church and confirmed. They are now entering the final stages of their long preparation and soon we will have the joy of welcoming them into our parish community. The oils which will be used to anoint them are those that our Archbishop will be blessing in the course of the Chrism Mass, to be celebrated at the Cathedral on Tuesday 31 March at midday. Any of our parishioners who are free are welcome to attend that Mass, but as it is always well attended, it is advisable to arrive in good time. It is an opportunity for the priests of the diocese to gather and to renew the promises made on the day of our ordination - with particular significance this year, as we renew those promises in the presence of our new Archbishop, Richard Moth.

Many of our parishioners are travelling at this time, given that the schools will soon be on holiday. We wish them a safe journey and we look forward to welcoming them back among us. For this reason, the First Holy Communion catechesis is suspended now until the week beginning 13 April and the children's liturgy will take a break after this weekend until Sunday 19 April.

We have been faithfully served for many years by the catechists who run the children's liturgy during the Sunday 4pm Mass, so many thanks to them, and indeed to all our catechists. They would welcome some new volunteers to assist them. Training can be provided during the remainder of this year, with a view to starting in the autumn. If you feel called to offer this service at the children's liturgy, do let the Parish Office know.

In the meantime, many of our young people are preparing to receive sacraments - the parish First Holy Communion and the parish confirmation will take place during May. And once Easter arrives, we will have many weddings in the church. We thank God for the life of grace that so many are carrying forward in significant ways and we pray that these important milestones will bring much joy to their lives.

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.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Needs You: Would you like to help distribute food, and a kind word to those in need? The "**Soup Run**" serves an eclectic array of clientele in Lincoln's Inn Fields in Holborn. We have been successfully supporting this community for over 33 years. Join us in the Social Centre (Hall), under St James's Spanish Place on Tuesdays and/or Fridays between 5:30pm and 6:00pm. We are a friendly team of volunteers. Come join us.

For more info: TEXT or WhatsApp - 07814 510991