

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

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.

THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO REDISCOVERING ITS SONGS

The pilgrimage ceremony will be 11am-1pm on Saturday 17th October. *[To sing in the final session you should have attended at least one of the learning sessions]*

Learning sessions will be on Sunday 4th October (4-6pm Farm Street), Wednesday 14th October (7-9pm Spanish Place). **Booking now open at** <http://bit.ly/caminosongs>

All materials needed will be supplied, and light refreshments will be served at each session. There will be a fee of **£10 per person for participation**, payable online in advance. The sessions will be led by Rafael Montero, founder of El Parnaso Hispano. No prior musical experience is needed, the sessions are open to all. Expressions of interest may be made by email to Lucy Williams (lucycw01@yahoo.co.uk - Spanish Place).

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
WRCDD 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.



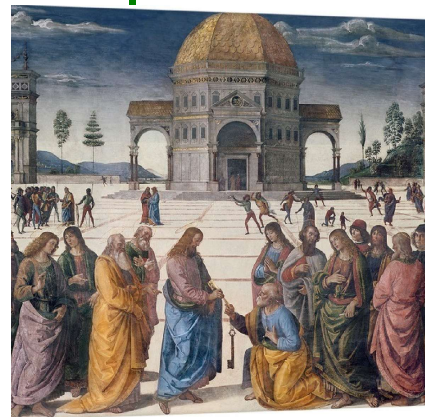
We have 'one-off' Gift Aid envelopes at various locations in church for cash offerings at Sunday Mass. ***Please complete all sections*** before ticking 'This' or 'all subsequent' donations.

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).

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



Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd 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 120]

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

'I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.'

O LORD, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Romans 11:33-36

'From him and through him and to him are all things.'

Matthew 16:13-20

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 24th ST BARTHOLOMEW
T 25th feria
W 26th feria
T 27th St Monica
F 28th St Augustine
S 29th Passion of St John Baptist 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

30th August 2026
XXIInd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am and 9am [1962]
10.30am [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

The Rector writes

Your parish priest is now back in London, after some family visits and a trip to Rome. I was privileged once again to be present at the Holy Father's General Audience last Wednesday, when he spoke about the place of music in the sacred liturgy, a message close to the hearts of our own congregation at Spanish Place. It was in the context of catechesis on Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on the Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council, the sixth chapter of which is devoted to sacred music. The full text can be read at <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2026/8/19/udienza-generale.html>. Among a number of striking quotations, Pope Leo quoted his own spiritual father, Saint Augustine, who said, "*Cantare amantis est*", that is, "*singing belongs to those who love*" (Sermo 336, 1).

It was rather striking that when addressing the Poles present, he mentioned that this Sunday is the day when the victims of Nazism and Communism are remembered throughout Europe. And he particularly mentioned the first priest-martyr of Communist Poland, namely Blessed Wladyslaw Findysz, martyred in 1964, during the Second Vatican Council. As the Holy Father reminded us, his witness shows that the civilization of love is built through forgiveness, through overcoming evil with good.

Monday of this week is the feast of **Saint Bartholomew**, one of the twelve Apostles. He is believed to be the same person who appears in Saint John's Gospel as Nathanael, although the Synoptic Gospels all call him Bartholomew. While the Scriptures give us relatively little information about him, Tradition proposes considerably more, including that he travelled as an apostle to Armenia, where he is held in great veneration. The current Ecumenical Patriarch, that is to say the widely-accepted head of the Orthodox churches, has the name Bartholomew.

Later in the week, we have a mother and son to celebrate. On **Friday**, we will remember **Saint Augustine of Hippo**, who as mentioned earlier is the spiritual father of the Pope himself, as Pope Leo is a member of the congregation of Augustinian friars. Augustine was a towering intellectual, who for a long time remained outside the Church, but as he recounts in his well-known autobiography, the Confessions, his intellectual and spiritual journey led him into the bosom of the Church, much to the delight of his mother, **Saint Monica**, who had never ceased praying for his conversion. She is remembered in **Thursday's** liturgy. Her son Augustine later became a priest and a bishop, as well as the author of a Rule of Life that is followed by many religious congregations to this day.

Saturday sees the memorial of the **Passion of Saint John the Baptist**, beheaded by King Herod in consequence of a disgraceful episode in which he foolishly swore to give his stepdaughter anything she asked for, little thinking that she would ask for the head of Saint John the Baptist. As to the current location of the head, or skull, there are rival claims, but one such claim is put forward by the Church of San Silvestro in Capite in Rome, the titular church of Cardinals Heenan and Hume.

As schools reopen, many will want to obtain a **certificate of Catholic practice** as part of an application for places at a Catholic school. Anyone wishing to obtain such a certificate from here will need to provide evidence of Catholic practice, which can be done using the forms available at the back of the church. An important part of the exercise involves asking the priest celebrant at the Sunday Mass you attend to sign the form as confirmation of your presence on each of three consecutive Sundays.

Forms will also be available from the start of September for those wishing to enrol for **sacramental preparation courses** in the coming year, that is to say for **First Holy Communion**, for teenage **Confirmation** and for the **RCIA**, aimed at adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith. These forms should be filled in and submitted to the Parish Office by the first weekend in October.

It is on the **third weekend of October** that the **mini-pilgrimage from Farm Street to Spanish Place** will be held. As you know, this pilgrimage is to be conducted in the spirit of the camino to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, and some of the medieval pilgrim songs will be sung on that occasion. Some prior rehearsal is necessary, and further details can be found elsewhere on the newsletter. Booking is also necessary, via the following Eventbrite link: <http://bit.ly/caminosongs1>.

As August draws to a close there is a sense that "*normal life*" is about to resume. One of the major projects in the pipeline for Spanish Place has to do with the refurbishment of the Crypt area, below the church. The toilet facilities need to be improved and the whole area needs to be brought into the modern era. Multiple permissions will be needed, on account of the "*listed*" nature of the building, so it will be a slow process, but we hope to start moving forward with fresh energy once the autumn term begins.

I renew my appeal to parishioners who may be aware of **sick or housebound** members of the parish. Home visits with Holy Communion can always be arranged, as long as we know they are needed. This may also be the moment to remind parishioners that hospitals normally have Catholic chaplains assigned to them, but patients need to ask to see the chaplain, as the hospital authorities will assume otherwise that they do not wish to see him or to receive sacraments at his hands. Even in times of sickness, there are opportunities to bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

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.
