

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.

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

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

**THE CAMINO TO SANTIAGO
REDISCOVERING ITS SONGS**

Booking now open at <http://bit.ly/caminosongs1>

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
Sunday 4th October (4-6pm Farm Street), Wednesday 14th October (7-9pm Spanish Place)

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.



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

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 of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, or by using the QR code.



We lack contact details for a number of generous donors whose gifts come directly 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 also backdate a claim by up to 4 years (if we have sufficient evidence).

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

**Twenty Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
4th October 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 137]

Isaiah 5:1-7

'The vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel.'

**The vineyard of the Lord
is the house of Israel.**

Philippians 4:6-9

'Practise these things,
and the God of peace
will be with you.'

Matthew 21:33-43

'He will let out the vineyard
to other tenants.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 5th feria
T 6th feria
W 7th Our Lady of the Rosary
T 8th feria
F 9th ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN
S 10th BVM on Saturday 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

11th October 2026
XXVIIIth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monsignor Philip Whitmore (Rector)
Father Domenico Lando

Telephone: 020 7935 0943 [Parish Office: 020 3475 9097]
Email: spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

Part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust

Registration No: 233699

The Rector writes

There will be a second collection for the work of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) after all Masses this weekend. Please see Elizabeth Carey's article at

https://www.sjrcc.org.uk/_files/ugd/ac578c_de9796d6895f484d807089ac63eabe7a.pdf.

As Friday of this past week was designated Harvest Fast Day, it was an opportunity for us to devote some of the money saved through fasting to this worthy cause. The envelopes were distributed last weekend. Please bring them back this weekend with your cash donation, or use the contactless machines if you prefer, to make a donation to this weekend's Collection.

The month of **October** is **dedicated to the rosary**, and indeed there will be an opportunity to recite the rosary after each weekday evening Mass this month in the Lady Chapel. Many thanks to Mark Carter and the Legion of Mary for organising this. The reason for the dedication has to do with the battle of Lepanto, in which the Christian forces were victorious on 7 October 1571. Chesterton's poem, *Lepanto*, recounts some of the story. As the Christian victory was attributed largely to the praying of the rosary, the date is kept each year as the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. The next-door parish on Old Marylebone Road is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, so we keep them very much in our prayers this coming Wednesday.

On **Wednesday** there will also be a concert in our church, as part of the Wigmore Hall series. Harry Christophers will conduct **The Sixteen** in a performance of Renaissance polyphony by Lassus, Josquin and others. The concert will be entitled "*The earth resounds*". As a result the 6pm mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel. For further information, including booking details, cf. <https://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/202610071930e>. Please note that tickets cannot be purchased from Saint James's Church.

This weekend is the last opportunity to submit forms for **sacramental preparation programmes** at Saint James's. Classes for **First Holy Communion** preparation and **Confirmation** preparation for teenagers will begin in the new year, and letters will be sent out to parents in the coming days about the arrangements. The **RCIA** will need to begin rather sooner, and those who have enrolled will be invited to a meeting in the Social Centre next Sunday, 11 October, at 5pm. We look forward to working with the candidates.

Many of you will have been following the Holy Father's recent visit to France and the headquarters of UNESCO. In his General Audience back in Rome last Wednesday, he offered a summary of his impressions of the visit (cf. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-09/pope-leo-apostolic-journey-france-rebirth-faith-peace-life-paris.html>). He had spoken much about the importance of peace, one of the key messages that he has underlined since the evening of his election in May 2025. As he said in his answers to questions from the young people gathered in St Denis on Thursday 25 September, "*The Gospel of Jesus does not lead to conflict, but always invites us to forgive. While shedding*

light on the drama of history, it fosters fraternal concern. Encountering Christ opens the way to dialogue and prepares us for his peace." On the final day of his visit, at a gathering in Metz, he reflected upon the work of Robert Schuman in building peace after the ravages of war. "*Contemporary Europe was indeed born as a project for peace in the wake of the destruction wrought by war. We might say that what happened to Notre-Dame in Paris with the fire was what had happened to Europe during the Second World War.*"

The Holy Father's prayer intention for this month of October is for all those involved in mental health ministry. He invites us to pray that this ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. Many of us will have friends or relations who suffer in this way, and we will be only too conscious of the importance of prayer for this intention.

The **mini-pilgrimage**, accompanied by some of the medieval pilgrim songs produced for the camino to the shrine of Saint James in northern Spain, is to take place the **weekend after next**, when a group will make the short journey from **Farm Street Church to Saint James's**. Rehearsal for the event will begin this weekend at Farm Street, but there will be a second rehearsal taking place here at Saint James's on Wednesday 14 October. Registration is needed for participation, largely because of the need for rehearsal, and it will remain open until 14 October at the following address: bit.ly/caminosongs1.

Friday of this week is a national feast-day, when we remember **Saint John Henry Newman**, the nineteenth-century writer and theologian who became a Catholic in 1845 and was responsible for introducing the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri to this country by founding the Oratory in Birmingham, where he died in 1890. He was canonized only recently, by Pope Francis in 2019, having been beatified by Pope Benedict during his 2010 visit to this country. Saint John Henry described the spiritual journey that led him to the Catholic Church in his autobiographical work, *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, which is a good introduction to his extensive writings.

Saint John Henry is a particularly important figure for the many convert clergy in our midst, having been an Anglican minister himself. Many of you will know **Father Mark Elliott Smith**, the parish priest of the neighbouring church in Warwick Street who has been in residence here in the Rectory for just over ten years. We are saying good-bye to Father Mark this week, as he finally leaves us to begin his retirement, and we assure him of our affection and our prayers as he leaves us. We hope he will come to visit us in the future.

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.
