

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

Reminder: The crypt is best accessed via the **staircase on the Blandford Street side** of the church, leading as it does 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 / ACCOMMODATION WANTED WITH A FAMILY

Quiet and polite young professional man, attending St James Spanish Place and known to the Parish Priest, is seeking a room to let for 6 months to a year from 1st of May 2026. Training to be a pilot, with regular hours, able to pay £600 per month. Character references available. ***Please call Ousi on 07432 474060. Thank you.***

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.

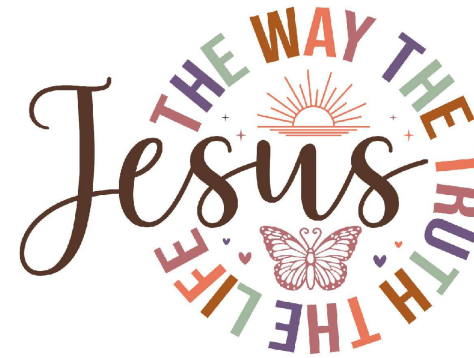


Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT **THREE STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH**, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



There are a number of very generous donors whose gifts come directly to our bank account and as a result we have no contact details for them. If **GIFT AID** was a possibility for these individuals could they please make contact with the Parish Office to discuss and/or request the necessary form.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY
of EASTER
3rd 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

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book page 265]

Acts 6:1-7
'They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.'

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

1 Peter 2:4-9
'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.'

John 14:1-12
'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 4th THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
T 5th *Easter feria*
W 6th *Easter feria*
T 7th *Easter feria*
F 8th *Easter feria*
S 9th *Easter feria* 10am
Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

10th MAY 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY
of EASTER

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@sjrcc.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.

A priest is available from 4.45pm - 5.30pm on Saturdays.

The Rector writes

Amid great excitement, we have the final preparations for our parish **First Holy Communion** and our **parish Confirmation**, both due next weekend. Eastertide is a wonderful season in which to experience this great outpouring of spiritual gifts - for the children who will receive Our Lord into their hearts and the for young people who will be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, enabling them to bear courageous witness to Christ. Prayers and good wishes to all our candidates and to their families.

And many thanks to our catechists who have worked so hard to prepare the young people for the sacraments they are to receive. **Elaine, Adelaide, Hayley, Kaya, Laura, Nancy** and **Vicki** have been working with the young children, while **Daniel** and **James** have been with the older candidates preparing for confirmation. Catechists are still needed to assist with the children's liturgy on Sundays. We are very grateful to Bishop Michael Campbell for coming to confirm our young people. Originally we were expecting Bishop Nicholas Hudson, as in former years, but after his appointment as Bishop of Plymouth, it became rather unclear which bishop might be available to assist on this occasion. Thank you, Bishop Michael, for stepping in.

May is Mary's month, and the rosary will be recited in the Lady Chapel after each weekday evening Mass. We honour the mother of God at this time in which so much new life is visible all around us, recognizing that it was she who brought Jesus into the world, enabling us all to receive the gift of new life. This year the rosary will be offered for priestly vocations, in accordance with the archbishop's request that we pray especially hard this month for that intention. The Holy Hour on Saturday 9 May will also be offered for priestly vocations.

This week I shall be on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Order of Malta. I shall be sure to pray for all our parishioners, especially for any who are sick, at this great shrine where Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette in the middle of the 19th century. It is wonderful to see how the sick become VIP's at this shrine, where many miracles of healing have taken place. There is an annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, but as it happens in late July, it always clashes with the feast of Saint James, so it is not ideally timed for us. In fact, this is the reason why it has been difficult for Cardinal Nichols to join us for the feast in previous years, but we are delighted that he has agreed to be our celebrant this year for the feast of Saint James, now that he has begun a well-earned retirement.

Monday of this coming week is a **Bank Holiday, and Mass will be celebrated at 10am**, after which the church will close. Monday is also a national feast-day, that is to say, the feast of the English martyrs. The reason for the choice of date is that the first martyrs of the English Reformation were executed on 4 May 1535. There used to be two separate feasts, one for the beatified martyrs and one for the 40 martyrs who were canonized by Pope Saint Paul VI in 1970, but all are now celebrated together on 4 May.

The beatification and canonisation of English martyrs was one of the great developments of the 20th century. Saints Thomas More and John Fisher were

canonized in 1935, the fourth centenary of their execution, and another 40 were to follow. Previously, English Catholics had a great devotion to Saint Thomas of Canterbury, the great English martyr saint. The growth in the cult of the Reformation martyrs is clearly indicated in our own church, where the altar of Saint Michael, at the right-hand end of the altar rails, was reinvented as an altar of the English Martyrs in the course of the 20th century. It now features a unique painting by Geoffrey Webb of 14 of the martyrs beatified in 1929.

This Sunday, 3 May, would normally have been the feast-day of the Apostles Philip and James, but this year, they are displaced by Sunday. Only the highest rank of feast, namely a solemnity, would take precedence over a Sunday, and that only in Ordinary Time, not in the Easter season. So Saints Philip and James will have to wait until next year before we can celebrate them liturgically.

During the month of May, the Holy Father's prayer intention is that everyone might have food. He says this: *"Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food."* We thank the Companions of the Order of Malta and the Parish SVP who work so hard to ensure that this does indeed happen.

It seems hard to believe, but Friday of the coming week will be the first anniversary already of the **election of Pope Leo XIV**. In Italy, 8 May is a local feast of Our Lady of Pompeii, better known for the archeological site in which visitors can see the ancient Roman city destroyed by the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius in 79AD. Pope Leo plans to mark his first anniversary by paying a Pastoral visit to Pompeii and Naples (cf. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-04/programme-published-for-pope-leo-s-visit-to-naples-and-pompeii.html>). We keep him very much in our prayers on this first anniversary. The devotion to Our Lady of Pompeii is associated particularly with Saint Bartolo Longo (canonized by Leo XIV shortly before our parish pilgrimage to Rome last October) and it features in Pope Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae (https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20021016_rosarium-virginis-mariae.html). **Our Lady of Pompeii, pray for us and for our world!**

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.

MONDAY 4th May is a BANK HOLIDAY - Mass at 10am ONLY after which the church will close **[therefore no confessions]**