

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.

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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 the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.



Parish Pilgrimage Rome 20th to 25th October

Visits to the four major basilicas, each of which will have a Holy Door for Jubilee pilgrims, as well as the two English seminaries, the Vatican, the Catacombs and the English College summer residence on Lake Albano, and much more besides. The cost is likely to be £1,595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1,895 per person (single, with limited availability). **Those interested, or wanting further information, contact the parish office.**

- MARRIAGE HELP -
Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage.
Next course: 17th-19th Oct.
www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

- MARRIAGE HELP -
Marriage Care provides a relationship counselling service for couples when life gets tough and it is hard to find a positive solution.
www.marriagecare.org.uk/
TEL: 0800 389 3801

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



St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

31st August 2025



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

Responses for the Solemn Latin Mass - pages 73/74 in the [red] Parish Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 130]

Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29

'Humble yourself so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.'

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

'You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.'

Luke 13:22-30

'Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I
Mass at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 1st feria

T 2nd feria

W 3rd St GREGORY the GREAT

T 4th feria

F 5th feria

S 6th BVM on Saturday 10am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

7th September 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday

8am and 9am

10.30am Solemn Latin

12pm, 4pm & 7pm

The Reverend Monsignor Philip Whitmore (Rector)

The Reverend John Njorteah

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

When I worked at Westminster Cathedral, it always seemed as if four months' worth of events would land on my desk with a loud thud on 1 September. Somehow, no one ever seemed to think about January events until halfway through that month, but December seemed just around the corner even on 1 September. The summer seems well and truly over, and what seems now to be called "*meteorological autumn*" has begun. The schools return - indeed Saint Vincent's school will be back in operation this coming week - so many families will have returned to the parish after their summer break. Welcome home! We hope you had a good break and are glad you have been able to return safely.

Now is the time to enrol for **sacramental preparation courses** for this year. Even though **First Holy Communion** preparation and **Confirmation preparation** will only begin in the new year, the forms should be completed and handed in to the parish office during the month of September - certainly by the first weekend in October. The forms are available at the back of the church and also on the parish website under "**Catechetics**". There are also forms for **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), which should be completed by adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Those who have been baptised should provide copies of their baptism certificates. Those wishing to be baptised will have an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament at the Easter Vigil (evening of Saturday 4 April 2026).

The people who express an interest in the RCIA tend to come from a great variety of backgrounds, some already well catechised, some knowing very little about Christianity. We will arrange to meet before the end of October, so that we can establish how best to respond to the variety of needs among the group. Those who submit forms for any of the three sacramental preparation programmes may expect to hear back from us during the month of October.

There is also likely to be a demand for **certificates of Catholic practice** from parents who wish to enrol their children in Catholic schools. Do remember that the parish priest can only sign such a form if he knows that the parents practise their faith regularly. In the event that the request arrives from parents unknown to the parish priest, he will need to ask for evidence that they have attended Mass for three consecutive Sundays. Be prepared to obtain this by approaching the priest celebrant after Sunday Mass and obtaining his signature, either on a form that he may have on his person, or else on your parish newsletter.

Also in **October**, the **parish pilgrimage to Rome** is to take place. This is a Jubilee Year, of course, being the 25th year of the century, so there is an opportunity to obtain an indulgence by entering through the Holy Doors of any of the four Papal Basilicas, having fulfilled the regular conditions (i.e. praying for the Pope's intentions while in a state of grace). When I was visiting Rome last week, I was able to enter the Basilica of Saint Mary Major through the Holy Door, after which there was an opportunity to venerate the tomb of Pope Francis, which is, of course, in that Basilica. During the pilgrimage, we should be entering through the Holy Doors of all four Basilicas.

On Wednesday of the coming week, we celebrate the feast of **Pope Saint Gregory the Great**. In England, this is kept as a feast day, because it was Pope Gregory who sent Saint Augustine to evangelise the pagan English. There is a famous story that Pope Gregory saw some fair-haired Angles being sold as slaves in Rome, and when he enquired who they were, and learned that they were Angles, his response, allegedly, was "*non Angli sed angeli*" - "*not Angles, but angels*"! On learning that the Angles were not Christian, he sent Saint Augustine to England to evangelise them. Although Christianity had reached our shores earlier, the waves of Anglo-Saxon invaders were not themselves Christian until the arrival of Saint Augustine, who established his see at Canterbury in the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent, the first to be evangelised.

Gregory the Great is also a Doctor of the Church, whose extensive writings have brought spiritual nourishment to millions. The best known of his many works is his "*Pastoral Rule*", which is full of wise advice for anyone engaged in pastoral ministry. He is one of only three Popes known as "*the Great*". Leo I was another, as was also the lesser known 9th-century Pope, Nicholas I.

His name is used in musical contexts, as so-called "*Gregorian chant*" is named after him. Most experts would agree that he had little personal connexion to the body of chant bearing his name, but that his efforts to achieve uniformity of musical practice across the Church led eventually, in a later period, to the establishment of a body of chant that has come to be known as "*Gregorian*".

As this coming **Friday** is the **first of the month**, we aim to have **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** between the lunchtime and evening Masses. This does require a constant presence of people praying in the church, as it would not be appropriate to leave the exposed sacrament unattended, so if you are able to make a commitment to be present for a part of that time, do please sign your name against one or more of the timed slots on the list at the back of the church.

Prayers and good wishes for all our parishioners as we begin a new school year after the summer period!

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.

**The Church is open from 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**

Safeguarding is an important - and indeed crucial - part of the life we share as a parish. **Denise Hines** coordinates our parochial safeguarding, her contact details are as follows: 07597 190301
spanishplacesg@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk should any concerns be felt.