

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Year 7 open evenings will be held on **Thursday 11 September 2025** and **Wednesday 17 September 2025** when the Headmaster will address parents and pupils at 4.30pm and again at 6.00pm. Following each speech, parents will be taken on a tour of the school. We therefore recommend you arrive in good time for either 4.30pm or 6.00pm.

The online application form link is available on the school website
www.cvms.co.uk/admissions

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.

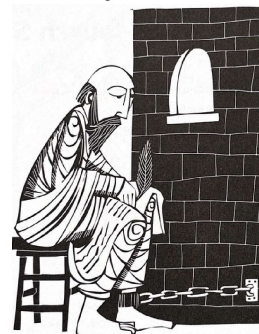
Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN can be made AT FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th September 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 133]

Wisdom 9:13-18

'Who can discern what the Lord wills.'

**O LORD, you have been
our refuge, from generation
to generation.**

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

'Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.'

Luke 14:25-35

'Any one who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 8th Our Lady's Birthday

T 9th feria

W 10th feria

T 11th feria

F 12th feria

**S 13th St John Chrysostom 10am
 Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm**

14th September 2025

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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

It's a long time since we had a Pope who was less than 70 years old. In fact, it was before May 1990, when Pope John Paul II celebrated his 70th birthday. We do currently have a Pope aged less than 70, but that will no longer be the case next **Sunday, 14 September, when Pope Leo XIV will celebrate his 70th birthday.** We pray for him and we commend him and his universal apostolic ministry to the intercession of Saint Leo and Saint Peter.

Next Sunday will be the feast of the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, and as it is a feast of the Lord, it takes precedence over a Sunday in Ordinary Time. So next Sunday, the liturgy will be that of the feast. The liturgical colour will be red, and the readings and prayers will be those, not of the Sunday, but of the feast. What a fitting day for the birthday of our Holy Father, whose principal task is to proclaim the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus to all the world!

Meanwhile, this Sunday, the **gold medal of the Guild of Saint Stephen** will be awarded to **Andrew Watson** in view of the fifty years he has given to serving at the altar, initially at Saint Monica's, Palmers Green, and latterly at Saint Aloysius, Somers Town, Our Lady of Hal, Camden Town, and here at Saint James's. Andrew gives invaluable service to the church, not only as a server and reader, but also as our sacristan. There is no shortage of work for him! We are most grateful to all our altar servers for the invaluable assistance they provide, though there is always room for more, so please do consider offering yourselves for this service if you think it might be a possibility for you. Saint Stephen is the patron saint of altar servers and of deacons. He appears on the altarpiece in our church, kneeling to the right, behind the shepherds, carrying a palm and also a stone, the instrument of his martyrdom. Westminster Cathedral, the spiritual home of the Guild of Saint Stephen, has a mosaic of him above the sanctuary. This parish has a long-standing affiliation to the Guild, so it seems most fitting to be renewing our links with the Guild on this occasion.

We have been asked to draw your attention to a talk to be given at **Saint Mary's, Hampstead**, at 4pm on **Sunday 21 September**, by Lady Oxford, a renowned Shakespeare scholar, entitled "*Shakespeare's Shadowplay?*" Clare Asquith, Countess of Oxford and Asquith, argues that Shakespeare used coded language, adopting the language of the Catholic underground, particularly the Jesuits during the Reformation in England, partly as an appeal to the monarchy for tolerance. Attendance is free of charge, but you are asked to book a place if you wish to attend, by e-mailing the Parish Administrator at hampstead@rcdow.org.uk. It will also be possible to view a streamed version of the lecture at <https://www.churchservices.tv/hampstead>

We are currently advertising for two cleaners to work here at Saint James's and in the adjoining spaces. The advertisement can be found on the Westminster diocesan website, at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-cleaner-spanish-place/>. There are only a few days remaining before the deadline for submitting applications, so do please put in an application soon if you are interested in the position.

As expected, the demand for **certificates of Catholic practice** has already begun. Do please 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.

Forms are also available now, at the back of the church and on the parish website, for those wishing to enrol in the parish's sacramental programmes, that is to say, **First Holy Communion**, aimed at children in Year 3 at school, **Confirmation**, aimed at young people in Year 9 at school, and the **RCIA**, aimed at adults wishing to know more about the Catholic faith. If you wish to enrol for one of these courses, please submit the relevant form to the parish office, duly completed, by the first weekend in October.

Monday of this week is the feast of the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Only three birthdays are celebrated in the liturgical year, namely those of Our Lord, Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist, all of whom were intimately involved in God's plan for the salvation of the world, and all three of whom were born in remarkable circumstances. Mary's mother, Saint Anne, is a secondary patron of our church, which is why it seems particularly fitting that we have a statue of Saint Anne close to the entrance to the Lady Chapel. The statue actually represents three figures - Saint Anne herself, holding her daughter Mary, who in turn is holding her son Jesus. Representations of the birth of Our Lady, such as the famous triptych in the National Gallery, evidently give a prominent place to Saint Anne.

The feast of Our Lady's birth is also kept by our friends in the Order of Malta as the feast of Our Lady of Philermo. They are praying a novena to her during these days, asking that she "*who was comfort and strength to the Knights through their trials may stand by us whenever we are besieged by temptation, fear and doubt.*" We do well to make that same petition.

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**
