

The Church opens at 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturday

Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.

On Saturday a priest is available 4.45pm-5.30pm.

REPOSITORY & INFORMATION
(located in the Memorial Chapel)

Weekdays 11.00am - 12.30pm

Saturday 3.45pm - 4.45pm

Sunday 9.45am - 10.30am

11.30am - 1.00pm

and 3.00pm - 4.00pm

A reminder that the crypt is best accessed via the **staircase on the Blandford Street side** of the church, leading as it does directly to the Disabled toilet -where there are ***Baby changing facilities*** - and the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

The final day to book The Marian Apostles group **pilgrimage to France (9 to 24 May)** led by Fr Thomas Crean OP & 2 Marian Franciscan Sisters **is March 4th** There are flyers at the back of the church and a poster on the noticeboard. **For further details please contact: Annabelle 07733223903**



JUBILEE YEAR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO 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 £1595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1895 per person (single, with limited availability). Those interested or wanting further information, are asked to contact the parish office.

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"** white **Gift Aid envelopes** at various locations in church for those who might wish to use them for their cash offering at Sunday Mass. **Please complete all sections and then tick the option for "This" or "all subsequent"**



Other ways to give

Donations of any amount using contactless or chip and pin (and directed to specific areas - including both the **PARISH** and **ORGAN** appeals) can be made AT FOUR LOCATIONS 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

**The Presentation
of The Lord**
2nd February 2025

Click [here](#) for live stream and [Universalis](#) for readings also available at the back of the church in six foreign languages.

Latin responses for the 10.30am Mass - pages 77/78 in the (purple) Parish Mass Book



TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book page 299]

Malachi 3:1-4

'The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple.'

**The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory!**

Hebrews 2:14-18

'He had to be made like his brothers in every respect.'

Luke 2:22-40

'My eyes have seen your salvation.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 3rd Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore

T 4th feria

W 5th St Agatha

T 6th St Paul Miki et al.

F 7th feria

S 8th BVM on Saturday 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

9th February 2025
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8am, 9am

10.30am [Solemn Latin]
12 Noon, 4.00pm & 7.00pm

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

Next Sunday, 9 February, a collection will be taken in aid of our parish **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP)**. In this connexion, Sharon Joseph writes:

Our “Soup Run” which has been going for over 30 years relies totally on donations. We continue our work feeding the homeless and those living with food, clothing and housing insecurity.

Please give generously to our appeal, we need your assistance, without which we cannot afford to continue supporting such a worthy community.*

We also visit those who are isolated or lonely. We can offer limited help to anyone who is having difficulty food shopping. We welcome volunteers for our Tuesday and Friday evenings from 5:30 PM sandwich and beverage preparation. We later go to Lincoln’s Inn Fields, Holborn, to distribute what we have prepared or collected from local cafés.

It is one of the great strengths of his parish that there is such a comprehensive programme of assistance to the homeless, with the Companions of the Order of Malta providing a soup kitchen on Monday and Thursday evenings in the Hall below the church, and our own SVP offering assistance of many different kinds to those in need. As Sharon says, do please support this parish initiative to help the poor in our locality, whom we come across so often, wondering how we could possibly help them.

This Sunday, as indicated in last week’s newsletter, is the feast of the **Presentation of the Lord**, which takes precedence over the 4th Sunday of the Year. It is the day when we recall that moment, recounted in Saint Luke’s infancy narrative, when Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple, where they encountered the prophets Simeon and Anna. Simeon’s canticle of praise has given us the immortal phrase “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles*”, which in turn is the reason for carrying lighted candles in procession on this day. Simeon recognised the child Jesus as the long-awaited Saviour and his words on seeing him have given us the canticle that is prayed daily at Compline, or Night Prayer - the “*Nunc Dimittis*”.

Because this was the occasion when Jesus was formally presented to the Lord in the Temple, the feast is kept as a Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. We honour those who have committed themselves to serve the Lord by observing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. These include members of religious communities, monks, friars and nuns, who have vowed to live in a remarkably counter-cultural way. Diocesan priests like ourselves are

not consecrated persons. Like all Christians, we are called to be “*in the world but not of the world*”. While we do make a formal promise of obedience to our bishop and most of us make a promise of celibacy, our embrace of poverty is voluntary and not a formal requirement of our state.

The children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in May will be making their First Confessions during the first week of February. Please keep them in your prayers at this time. On the first Friday in February, that is to say this coming Friday, 7th, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the afternoon, from the end of the lunchtime Mass until shortly before the evening Mass. If you are able to make a commitment to be present for part of this time, then do please enter your name against one of the time-slots indicated on the sheet at the back of the church. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offers us a wonderful opportunity to draw close to the Lord and to thank him for his great gifts to us, particularly in the Eucharist. During the celebration of Mass, there is not always time to enter deeply into prayer, as the action unfolds with a certain momentum. Eucharistic adoration, on the other hand, offers us a time of total stillness when we can pray fervently to our Lord, who feeds us so abundantly.

Eucharistic adoration was particularly dear to the heart of soon-to-be-Saint Carlo Acutis, the young Italian website designer, born in London, who is to be canonised the Sunday after Easter during this Jubilee Year. The official website can be visited at carloacutis.com. At some point during this Jubilee Year, it would be most appropriate to make a pilgrimage to Rome, where a great many events are planned (cf. iubilaeum2025.va). For example, next weekend sees the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel. The canonisation of Blessed Carlo will take place during the Jubilee of Teenagers. Our parish pilgrimage to Rome in October is still open to new participants, so do consider taking part if you are free to do so. Do not be anxious if you read on the Jubilee website that you need to register before passing through the Holy Door at Saint Peter’s - if you come on the parish pilgrimage, you will be registered by the organisers. Whether or not you manage to visit Rome in the course of this year, the Jubilee is a time of hope for the whole Church. It has been pointed out that a literal translation of “*Peregrinantes in spem*”, the Jubilee motto, would be “*pilgrims into hope*”. This spiritual journey is one that we can all undertake as we grow ever closer to Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and for ever.

Philip Whitmore

*** Cheques payable to SVP - Marylebone - A220108**

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.
