

A Reminder To All.
DO NOT GIVE MONEY TO THOSE BEGGING ON THE STEPS OR AT THE CHURCH GATES. Members of the congregation - and visitors - are also reminded to keep a close eye on their belongings. **Please DO NOT leave bags etc in your seat when approaching the Altar rail.** It really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

Fridays during Lent

Stations of the Cross



follow the 6pm Mass

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.

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

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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2nd March 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



The Week Ahead

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

M 3rd feria
 T 4th feria

ASH WEDNESDAY
 also 7.15am, 9.30am (school) 11am (1962)

T 6th Lent feria
 F 7th Lent feria
 S 8th Lent feria 10.00am
 Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

9th March 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
 8am, 9am
10.30am [Solemn Latin]
 12 Noon, 4.00pm & 7.00pm

TODAY'S LITURGY
[Parish Mass Book page 144]

Sirach 27:4-7⁴
'Do not praise a man before you hear him reason.'

It is good to give thanks to you, O LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58
'He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ.'

Luke 6:39-45
'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.'

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

The world is not short of bad or unwelcome news in these difficult times. Thankfully, here at St James's, Spanish Place, we have some good news to share this week. **Our Parish Appeal**, launched last November, is doing exceptionally well. The main church organ has now been taken away for its vital overhaul and refurbishment. It will be returned to us towards the end of 2025, fit for its next half-century of great musicmaking. Many of you indicated that you would give, or indeed pledge, donations to arrive by the end of the current tax year in April. Should all these gifts come in, there is every chance that we can close our Appeal early, most likely on 1 May. Please do help us with this final effort to reach our £500,000 target, and make good on your very generous pledges and promises. We cannot thank you enough for everything you have done to preserve our parish's musical life, and for the upgrade of our heating system.

As you know, the Appeal was due to run until November 2025, lasting a full twelve months. It's a remarkable success story to be so far ahead at this stage. A celebratory concert is planned for November, and we will go ahead with that regardless of when the Appeal closes. Further details will be announced in due course. Any potential surplus from the Appeal will be diverted to essential building maintenance, or the ongoing cost of weekly liturgical music here. Renewed gratitude to you all for your extraordinary help in making this Appeal the great triumph it always deserved to be. Rest assured that Father John and I will remember your generosity in our prayers and Masses right through the year. Please also remember everybody who worked so hard to make this Appeal succeed in your own prayer intentions. Together we have ensured the continuity of a very special tradition in this most unique of parishes.

In a few days' time, we begin the season of Lent. **Ash Wednesday**, which falls this year on **5 March**, is a day of fasting and abstinence. It is not a Holyday of Obligation, but many people like to come to Mass anyway, to make a good start to the Lenten season. There will be a 7.15am Mass, as well as the regular 12.30pm and 6pm Masses, with the blessing and imposition of ashes at each Mass. A further Mass celebrated according to the 1962 missal will be celebrated at 11am. The choir will sing at the 12.30pm and 6pm Masses.

The imposition of ashes is a reminder of God's words to Adam immediately after the Fall: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken: for you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). The ashes are made by burning the palms that were used for the Palm Sunday liturgy the previous year. Do remember, though, that they used only during the liturgy, not at other times of day.

The rather sombre character of the Lenten liturgy is marked in a number of ways: we avoid altogether the acclamation "Alleluia", even on feast-days, the liturgical colour is generally purple, we do not decorate the church with flowers and, rather fortuitously, the organ is used only for accompaniment, not for solo items. The pared-down liturgy helps us to maintain our focus on the journey of conversion and penance in preparation for the great feast of Easter, when the flowers, the organ and the "Alleluia" make a triumphant return amid a blaze of gold.

The season of Lent is a period of particularly intense preparation for the catechumens and candidates who have been attending the RCIA since the autumn, with a view to entering the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They will take part in the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on the first Saturday of Lent, 8 March, when catechumens and candidates from all over the diocese of Westminster are formally welcomed by Cardinal Nichols. Do please keep our own group very much in your prayers as they enter upon this final stage of their journey towards the sacraments of initiation.

The previous day, **Friday 7 March**, is the **first Friday** of the month, and we hope to expose the Blessed Sacrament throughout the afternoon, from 1pm until just before the 6pm Mass. If you can make a commitment to be present for an hour or so, do please sign your name on the sheet at the back of the church. In February there were not enough names on the list to continue the Exposition all through the afternoon, but it would be a most appropriate Lenten exercise to make an extra effort in March and April. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament enables us to ponder deeply in our prayer the extraordinary gift of the Eucharist, in which Our Crucified and Risen Lord gives himself to us as food. *"O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace and a pledge of future glory is given to us."*

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 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.**