

Please **DO NOT** give money to those begging on the steps or at the church gates, as we have established charities operating here four nights a week. We ask all parishioners - and visitors - to keep a close eye on their belongings **DO NOT** leave bags unattended during Communion, it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

Fridays of Lent

Stations of the Cross follow the 6pm Mass



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

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.



Jubilee Year Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 20-25th 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, 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

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 of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN (including both **PARISH** and **ORGAN** appeals) 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

SECOND Sunday of LENT

16th March 2025

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

Solemn Latin responses on pages 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book



TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 156]

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Philippians 3:17-41

Christ will configure us to his glorious body.

Luke 9:28b-36

'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I
Masses at 12.30pm and 6pm

Mon 17 th	St Patrick
Tues 18 th	Lent feria
Wed 19 th	ST JOSEPH
Thur 20 th	Lent feria
Fri 21 st	Lent feria
Sat 22 nd	Lent feria (10am)

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

23rd March 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8am, 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

We are now about ten days into Lent, and the initial enthusiasm may be wearing rather thin. Easter still seems a long way off. But as Bishop Fulton Sheen once said, “Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.” If we experience failure in carrying out our resolutions, that is a reminder that we can only make progress in the spiritual life through God’s help, not by our own efforts. Sometimes God allows us to fail, so that he can help us to trust more in the power of his grace. And this is a time to grow in our knowledge of God’s great love for us. In the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta: “As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus’ thirst...He knows your weakness. He only wants the chance to love you.”

We have a chance over the coming ten days to practise almsgiving, one of the pillars of traditional Lenten observance, as the **Lenten CAFOD collection** is swiftly approaching. Thank you very much for your generous support of the **Cardinal’s Appeal** last Sunday, which has raised £787.62 so far . You can continue to contribute to this Appeal throughout the season of Lent, particularly by visiting <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinals-appeal/>. This weekend, though, our focus is shifting toward CAFOD and the annual Lenten Fast that our Catholic aid agency proposes, so that we can save and redirect funds in aid of the most needy in our world. Envelopes will be distributed this weekend, but the collection itself is scheduled for next weekend. Elizabeth Carey’s article for the parish website can be viewed at <https://www.sjrcc.org.uk/cafod-lenten-appeal-2025>, and CAFOD’s own website provides further indications (<https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/lenten-appeal>). NB, our own collection for CAFOD comes a week later than the “official” collection, as we were focusing on the Cardinal’s Appeal last weekend.

There are two great feasts in the calendar next week - **Saint Patrick** and **Saint Joseph**. On Monday 17 March, the patron saint of Ireland provides us with an opportunity to suspend our Lenten fast for a day while we give thanks for his evangelisation of that island in the 5th century. Because of the work of Irish missionaries in so many parts of the world, he is also venerated elsewhere, for example in Nigeria, where he is the patron saint of the nation, so **congratulations** are owed not only to our Irish worshippers, our Patricks and our neighbours at Saint Patrick’s Church in Soho, but also to Father John and our other Nigerian friends.

While Saint Patrick’s day is kept as a feast in this country, Saint Joseph’s is kept as a solemnity. Wednesday 19 March provides us with the opportunity to honour the great husband of Mary, foster-father of Our Lord, patron of the universal Church and of fathers everywhere, patron of workers, immigrants and the unborn. His shrine in this country is at Farnborough Abbey, transferred there when the original site at Mill Hill was sold almost twenty years ago. Saint Joseph’s Missionary Society, also known as the Mill Hill Missionaries, was founded by our own Cardinal Vaughan, third Archbishop of Westminster, who also founded Westminster Cathedral. The tomb of Cardinal Vaughan was relocated to Westminster Cathedral when the land at Mill Hill was sold. Saint John Henry Newman had a great devotion to Saint Joseph, in whose honour he penned the following reflection:

“He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.”

Assurances of prayers and good wishes to all our Josephs, fathers, and to all those who enjoy the patronage of Saint Joseph, especially the peoples of Austria, Belgium and Croatia, to name but a few.

This Sunday the **Civic Service** is to be held at Westminster Cathedral (cf. our parish newsletter of 9 February). Those who have already indicated a wish to attend are reminded that it begins at 4pm in the Cathedral. Renewed **congratulations** to our own Councillor Robert Rigby, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, for arranging this event, celebrating the diversity and unity of the many communities across the City.

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent always presents us with an account of the Transfiguration, that great mystery of light in the life of Our Lord. As we are reminded by the Preface this Sunday, “After he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.” Let this great mystery and those stirring reflections from the Preface be a source of encouragement to us at this stage in Lent, a word which means “spring”. We see the signs of new life around us as the spring flowers gradually make their appearance. Let it be so in our spiritual lives as well.

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.

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

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

<p>Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays. On Saturday a priest is available 4.45pm-5.30pm.</p>
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