

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony  
Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm.**

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026.

If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email).



**St. James's Young Adults Group (Ages 18-35)**  
**Looking to grow your faith and connect with people your own age?** Join our vibrant young adults community! Whether you are into faith talks, social events or just making new friends, there is a place for you here.

*A 12 day pilgrimage to Ireland 8 -19 May 2026*  
*Theme: "Purification with the help of the Saints"*  
*Cost: minimum 30 pilgrims - £2295, 40 pilgrims - £2215*  
*this includes hotel accommodation, flights, coach hire, entry fees, etc. For further information, please contact 07733 223903.*

Lough Derg Sanctuary,  
Our Lady of Knock Shrine,  
Croagh Patrick, Dublin,  
Skellig Michael and more

To book, please contact Tangney Tours: clare@tangney-tours.com, 01732 886666. Please book early.

**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 to the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

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 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.



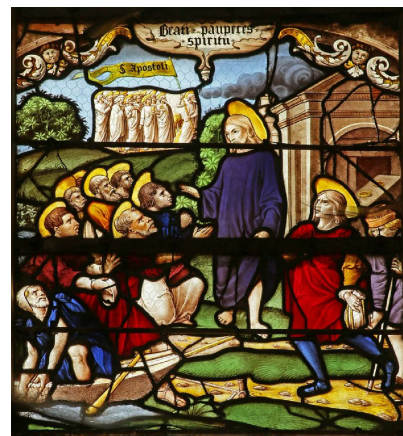
**GIFT AID** enables the Parish to claim from HMRC an additional 25% of a donor's gift (offertory, candles, mass intentions) and costs you **NOTHING** (apart from your signature). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form - if we are able to identify your earlier gifts we can backdate the claim for up to 4 years.

**St James's Roman Catholic Church**

**- Spanish Place -** 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**



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

**TODAY'S LITURGY - page 130**

The LATIN responses for the Solemn Mass 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book.

**The Week Ahead**

**Sunday Cycle A Weekday (Week 3) Year II**  
Mass on weekdays at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

**M 2<sup>nd</sup>** THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  
**T 3<sup>rd</sup>** Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore  
**W 4<sup>th</sup>** feria  
**T 5<sup>th</sup>** St Agatha  
**F 6<sup>th</sup>** St Paul Miki and Companions  
**S 7<sup>th</sup>** BVM on Saturday 10.00am  
**Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am and 9am[1962]  
**10.30am Solemn Latin,**  
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

**Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13**

*'I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.'*

**Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

*'God chose what is weak in the world.'*

**Matthew 5:1-12a**

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'*

**Monsignor Philip Whitmore (Rector)**

**Father Domenico Lando**

The Reverend Mark Elliott-Smith (in residence, Ordinariate)

Telephone: **020 7935 0943** [Parish Office: 020 3475 9097]

Email: [spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:spanishplace@rcdow.org.uk)

Web: [www.sjrcc.org.uk](http://www.sjrcc.org.uk)

**Church opens at 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**

## The Rector writes . . . . .

This weekend, sadly, we say goodbye to **Father John Njorteah**, but in his place we welcome **Father Domenico Lando** who greets the parishioners warmly:

“Dear friends of Saint James’s, Spanish Place,

It is a true joy to join you as your new assistant priest. From the moment I arrived, I have felt the warmth and generosity of this parish, and I am eager to get to know each of you in the weeks and months ahead.

I come from Varapodio, a small town in Calabria, Italy. Music has always been at the heart of my life — not only as a passion, but as a way of connecting with God and others. I am trained in flute and voice, and I have studied composition and choir direction, experiences that have allowed me to guide parish and diocesan choirs, accompany liturgies, and help communities pray through music.

I was spiritually formed with the Jesuits in Posillipo, deepening my understanding of Ignatian spirituality, which continues to guide my life and ministry. Academically, I hold a bachelor’s degree in Linguistic Mediation, as well as master’s degrees in Philosophy and in Modern Languages and Literature. These studies have enriched my personal and priestly journey, helping me to understand, communicate, and engage with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Becoming a priest has been a transformative journey of faith. Serving in different parishes has allowed me to accompany people in their joys, struggles, and everyday challenges. I have always sought to meet people where they are, sharing God’s love in both small daily gestures and significant moments in life.

Music, however, is more than a skill or profession; it is a form of prayer. I hope to share this gift with the parish, not only through choirs and liturgies but also by encouraging everyone — young and old — to experience the beauty and joy that sacred music can bring to our worship and to our hearts,

I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Fr. John Njorteah, who has served this community with great dedication and love. His ministry here has been a true blessing, and we are grateful for all he has contributed to Saint James’s. I pray that God abundantly blesses him as he returns to Nigeria, guiding his studies and pastoral mission, and filling his heart with joy and peace.

Beyond music, my prayer and ministry are always oriented toward building community, friendship, and spiritual growth. I look forward to celebrating the sacraments with you, accompanying families, youth, and individuals, and walking together in faith. Every parish is a family, and I hope to listen, learn, and grow with all of you, sharing in your joys and supporting you in your challenges.

I am deeply grateful to Monsignor Philip and the parish staff for their warm welcome and support. Please know that I hold all of you in my prayers, and I ask for yours in return. May God bless Saint James’s, fill your hearts with His love, and guide us as we journey together in faith.”

I am confident that the parishioners will make Father Domenico very welcome, and that soon it will be hard to remember that there was ever a time when he wasn’t with us.

**Monday** of the coming week is the **feast of the Presentation of the Lord**, when we recall the moment, recounted in Saint Luke’s Gospel, when Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the Temple. With reference to the theme “*lumen ad revelationem gentium*” - a light to enlighten the Gentiles, that appears in Simeon’s famous canticle, the “*Nunc Dimittis*”, we celebrate this day as a feast of light, bearing blessed candles in procession, since the point of this feast is that the Light of the World was made manifest to all when Jesus was presented in the Temple. Mass will be celebrated at the usual weekday times.

Because this feast comes forty days after the birth of Jesus, it was the moment when according to Jewish law, the mother of a male child could offer a purification sacrifice and come once more into the sanctuary. For this reason, it was once kept as a feast of Our Lady, and in the Liber Usualis instructions are given that a new Marian antiphon, the Ave Regina Caelorum, be sung from Compline on this feast until Wednesday of Holy Week. Although the current liturgical books give no instructions regarding the choice of Marian antiphon, it is customary to follow the rhythm of the pre-Conciliar liturgy, insofar as it can be adapted to the modern calendar, so at our 10.30am Sunday Mass we will be singing the Ave Regina Caelorum from now until Easter.

Friday of this week being the **first Friday of the month**, we hope to expose the Blessed Sacrament from the end of the lunchtime Mass until shortly before 5pm, when a wedding rehearsal is scheduled to take place. We will only be able to do so, however, if a sufficient number of worshippers sign slots on the timed sheet at the back of the church, committing themselves to be present, as it would not be appropriate to leave the exposed Sacrament unattended. Worship of the Blessed Sacrament is heartily recommended to the faithful, as “*in his presence [they] pour out their hearts for themselves and for those dear to them; they pray for peace and for the salvation of the world.*”

This month of February will see a formal **farewell to Cardinal Vincent Nichols** at the **5.30pm Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 5 February**, the annual **Mass for the Sick in the cathedral at 2pm on Saturday 7 February (a ticketed event)**, the **installation of our new Archbishop Richard Moth on Saturday 14 February (another ticketed event)**, the **start of Lent on Wednesday 18 February** and the **Rite of Election on Saturday 21 February**. In our daily prayers, we remember all those involved in these momentous events.

Philip Whitmore

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**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.

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