



FRIDAYS  
DURING LENT  
**STATIONS**  
of the  
**CROSS**  
after the  
6pm Mass

Please **DO NOT** give money to those begging on the steps or at the gates, as we have established charities who operate here four nights a week.

We ask all parishioners - **and visitors** - to keep a close eye on their belongings.



**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.



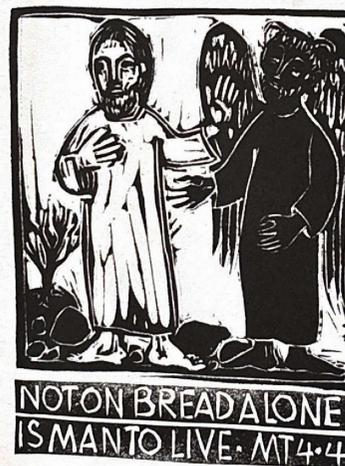
GIFT AID enables the Parish to claim from HMRC an additional 25% of a donor's gift (offertory, candles, mass intentions) and costs you NOTHING (apart from your signature). If you are a UK taxpayer please ask for a form - if we are able to identify your earlier gifts we can backdate the claim for up to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

# St James's Roman Catholic Church

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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22<sup>nd</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 151

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

### The Week Ahead

Sunday Cycle A Weekday Year II  
Mass on weekdays at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 23<sup>rd</sup> Lent Feria  
T 24<sup>th</sup> Lent Feria  
W 25<sup>th</sup> Lent Feria  
T 26<sup>th</sup> Lent Feria  
F 27<sup>th</sup> Lent Feria  
S 28<sup>th</sup> Lent Feria 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

1st March 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

The creation  
and sin of our first parents.

Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we have sinned.

**Romans 5:12-19**

'Where sin increased,  
grace abounded all the more.'

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus fasts for forty days  
and is tempted.

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 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 . . . . .

**The season of Lent is now upon us.** Purple is the colour of the season, we abstain from the Gloria and the Alleluia, we cut down on flowers and organ music, and on Friday evenings, after Mass, we pray the Stations of the Cross. On Ash Wednesday we launched this new season, which we mark by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Each year, the Holy Father addresses a Lenten letter to the faithful, and in his first such message, on the theme **“Listening and Fasting: Lent as a time of conversion”** (cf <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>), Pope Leo says this:

*“Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.”*

Not only do we have a fairly new Pope, we have a new Archbishop - Richard Moth, whom we hope to be able to welcome to the parish in the not too distant future. At the Rite of Election in the Cathedral this Saturday (21 February) he welcomed our catechumens and candidates on the final stage of their journey towards receiving the sacraments of Christian initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Our Patronal feast, Saint James’s Day**, falls on a Saturday this year, but we plan to celebrate it the evening before, on **Friday 24 July**. Cardinal Nichols has provisionally agreed to be the celebrant, something he has not been able to do before, as the date always coincides with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. In fact this is the reason why the current Archbishop is unable to be with us on that occasion. Although it is still a long way off, do make a note of the date in your diaries. The Mass is due to start at 7pm and is to be followed by a reception.

One of the three traditional ways of marking the season of Lent is, of course, almsgiving. Friday of this coming week has been designated **“Family Fast Day”**, by **CAFOD**, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. But because of the timing of half-term, the CAFOD envelopes are to be distributed next weekend. The collection itself will take place after all Masses on Sunday 8 March. After that we shift our focus to the **Diocesan Lenten Appeal**, to which contributions can be made at any stage during the season, but particularly on the **5th Sunday of Lent, 22 March**, when a collection will be taken for the Lenten Appeal, in favour of diocesan initiatives to promote evangelisation, youth ministry, marriage and family life, social action and education.

Normally 22 February would be the feast of the Chair of Peter, but as it falls on a Sunday this year, the feast is displaced. The same will apply to the feast of Saint

David on 1 March, but not to Saint Patrick or Saint Joseph, about which there will be more to say when March comes.

**This Sunday the young adults will be present at Mass**, after which they will hold meetings on the first three Wednesday evenings in March. We have been asked to publicise two events aimed at Young Adults and organized by the Assumption Sisters, namely:

Young Adults **LENT RETREAT DAY** with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 21 March 2026 10am – 6pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street, Kensington). The programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • Mass and social time. Please register for the retreat by scanning the QR code on the poster in the porch or by sending an email to [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org).

**Divine Mercy Pilgrimage for Young Adults** (aged 18-35) in Vilnius, Lithuania, with the Assumption group from 6-12 June. Take part in the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, an international Catholic gathering held in the birthplace of the Divine Mercy devotion. Cost: £600 + travel. Register by 30th March, for more information visit [www.assumpta-eu.org/divine-mercy-pilgrimage-in-vilnius/](http://www.assumpta-eu.org/divine-mercy-pilgrimage-in-vilnius/) or email [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org)

Nearer home, a **Lenten day of recollection** is to be held in the Social Centre of our own church on **Saturday 7 March**, led by Abbot Xavier Perrin of Quarr. Details can be found on the poster in the porch.

Just a reminder that at the end of this month of February, lost property items will be disposed of, so do be sure to investigate whether any of your own lost property items are included among them.

It is good that we have functioning heating in the church and the rectory at last. We are hoping that the church organ will be returned to us before much longer, if possible in time for Easter. Work is progressing, but it seems that the job is more extensive than had been originally anticipated. Once these projects are completed, we hope to be able to move forward with the refurbishment of the Social Centre and the garden, but do not expect progress to be swift.

There has been some progress in finding volunteers to serve on a rota to clean the church, but we would still welcome more volunteers, in order to spread the load more fairly among them.

Meanwhile Father Domenico and I wish all our parishioners every blessing during this special season of Lent, and a fruitful preparation for the approaching feast of Easter.

**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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