



Confessions are heard from **Midday to 1pm each weekday** Monday to Friday. On Saturdays there is a priest available from **4.45pm-5.45pm**. We are able to maintain this routine with the generous help of the priests of Opus Dei who have a long and valued confessional ministry here.

The **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** continue to look for volunteers to help in its work with the homeless. Meet in the crypt from 5.30pm-8pm to prepare food and drinks which are then taken to Lincoln's Inn Fields where 80-100 people form a regular clientele. Contact wmetcalfemail@gmail.com or on 07768 315097. A warm "thank you" to those who supported SVP's recent bike ride £4,500 has been raised.

Over the weekend **3rd-5th September**, the relics of **Saint Bernadette** will be received and honoured in Westminster Cathedral (as part of an autumn pilgrimage to various cathedrals and religious houses throughout the UK). There will be a comprehensive programme of devotions so watch for details and plan to visit Westminster Cathedral for what will be a very special encounter with the little Saint of Lourdes.



Enquiries are already being received about the new **Sacramental Programmes**. Enrolment will begin on the first Sunday in September and will extend until the first Sunday in October: **forms will be available at the back of the church for First Holy Communion, teenage Confirmation and adult instruction: please complete and return to the parish office: once numbers are known for each programme those involved will be contacted with details of start dates, meeting times etc.**

If you can help the parish by a one-off donation or by a commitment to regular giving, it would be greatly appreciated. More information from the parish office or use the bank details set out below:-

HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY
Sort code: 40-05-20 Acc no: 91094394 WRCDT Spanish Place

When did you last look at the parish WEBSITE:
www.sjrcc.org.uk ?

REPOSITORY & INFORMATION DESK
(located in the Memorial Chapel)
Weekday opening is now operational (though further offers of help are always welcome).

Weekdays 11.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday 3.45pm - 4.45pm
Sunday 9.45am -10.30am
11.30am - 1.00pm
3.00pm - 4.00pm

*We have a new supply of "one-off" white **Gift Aid envelopes** at various places in church for those who might wish to use them for their cash offering at Sunday Mass. Tick the option for "**This**" or "**and all subsequent**".*

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- *Spanish Place* -

22 George Street, W1U 3QY



**THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
14th August 2022**

[online] Click [here](#) for live stream and **Universalis** for readings.
In Church - Parish Mass Book page 188 or in foreign languages (six) all available at the back.

The Week Ahead

Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

15th *feria* [EF Assumption 11am]
16th St Stephen of Hungary
17th *feria*
18th *feria*
19th *feria*
20th **10am** St Bernard
Vigil Mass of Sunday 6pm

21ST IN ORDINARY TIME
21st AUGUST

8am, 9am [EF]
10.30am [Solemn Latin]
Midday, 4pm & 7pm.

TODAY'S LITURGY

Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6, 10
A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.

On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Christ as the first-fruits and then, those who belong to him.

St Luke 1:39-56
The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.

Parish Mass Book pages 73/74 - Latin texts for the Solemn Mass

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

Monsignor Philip Whitmore

The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (*in residence*)

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

Email: spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

As with all the truths we celebrate about the Blessed Virgin Mary – this weekend it is her Assumption into heaven – not only do they reveal something significant about the woman chosen to be the Mother of Jesus but they also offer something which has a personal application to the rest of us. The intercession for the departed which may be included in the Third Eucharistic Prayer asks: *“grant that he/she who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection, when from the earth he will raise up in the flesh those who have died, and transform our lowly body after the pattern of his own glorious body”*. Two of the names sometimes given to the Assumption – *“Our Lady in Harvest”* and *“Summer Easter”* – are not only a reference to the time of year in which the feast is celebrated but make the connection with Christ’s own new and glorified life breaking from the tomb. *“Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ ... Christ as the first fruits and then those who belong to him”* (1 Corinthians 15:23).

The definition of the Assumption, to which we are committed as Catholics, testifies not just to the fact of Mary’s attainment of a place in heaven, but that she has done so – as did her Son before her – in the fullness of her being which involves body as well as soul. Each time we recite our Creeds, we affirm our belief that resurrection is much more than a purely spiritual passage and that, in some way we cannot as yet comprehend, our whole human history (which includes our physical nature) will be taken up into God. Clearly, we do not believe in the simple reconstitution of body parts, neither are we committed to a merely spiritual resurrection where the *“earthiness”* which has made us what we are is completely jettisoned. As with Christ’s own body there will be continuity but fundamental change: all that we have been will be transformed, transfigured, glorified. *“The thing that is sown is perishable, but what is raised up is imperishable; the thing that is sown is weak, but what is raised up is powerful”*.

The Dominican theologian, Aidan Nichols, draws a distinction between the rest of us whose personal redemption is linked to the final consummation of God’s plan for the redemption of the whole of creation and that of Jesus’ Mother: *“because of Mary’s special place in God’s redeeming plan, he bought her redemption to its completion straightaway. There was no sin to obstruct her union with him from the very start of her life. For her extraordinary task the mother of the Redeemer needed to be rescued from sin more than the rest of us and so she was from the very outset. Similarly at the end of her life there were to be no obstacles to prevent the perfect fulfilment of her redemption”*. Put at its most basic, Mary has already reached the goal to which the rest of us are striving and that knowledge should engender great hope. What God has achieved in Mary is nothing less than his most cherished hope for the rest of us. With

absolute confidence we can say: *“pray for us Holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ”*.

At one level, the dogma of the Assumption contains theological truth about the nature of salvation and the glorification which it is God’s plan all should share, but for the ordinary believing Catholic it underlines the intimacy shown by Mary and Jesus with all its consequences for our own journey of faith. *“Mary stands in glory at Christ’s right hand, just as once she stood in humiliation by his cross. Since she remained close to her divine Son she is taken into his destiny. The Assumption draws the final implications from this closeness of Mary to Jesus which is not a sentimental one but a real moral union working itself out at all levels and leading to a victory over the dehumanising and disintegrating forces at work in the human world, namely sin and death”* (Aidan Nichols). Our love for Mary and our reliance on her intercession is consequent on our understanding of the true identity of her Child. We believe that the Mother has unique insight into the Son which she wants to share with all his brothers and sisters, her beloved children: her Divine Motherhood reaches out to embrace all who would better understand the nature of redemption and its Source. *“The Church looks on high and greets in Mary her own type and model, her own future in the resurrection of the body”* (Karl Rahner)

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

A special word of welcome to our visitors. During August when the regular congregation is mostly away on holiday it is good to see many new faces. Please do make yourself known to the celebrant after Mass. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship here with us in Saint James’s. Throughout August, we maintain our usual pattern of Masses, Confessions etc and the choir continues to sing at Solemn Masses. The church is usually open from around 7am until a few minutes after the last Mass of the day.

This year, the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** as a holy day of obligation is celebrated today (the nearest Sunday) but there will also be a Mass offered (in the Extraordinary Form) at 11am tomorrow (Monday 15th).

The celebrant of this Sunday’s Midday Mass will be **Father Francis Wahle** whose **93rd** Birthday it is. We wish him a very happy day and many fresh graces and blessings for the year ahead.

Safeguarding is an important and indeed crucial part of the life we share as a parish. It is a fundamental of human justice that the dignity of every person – most especially the young and the vulnerable – should never be compromised. **Denise Hines** co-ordinates our parochial safeguarding and her contact details are on the porch notice board should any concerns be felt: we are grateful for Denise’s time given to this role.