

Please visit our Repository (*located in the Memorial Chapel*)  
for First Holy Communion cards and gifts.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rosemary Madubunyi** who has died aged 43. Her Funeral Mass will take place here in church at 11am on Tuesday (24th) before burial at Saint Mary's Cemetery. Our condolences to Rosemary's family. **RIP**

Fliers will be found at the back of church advertising a **Eucharistic Octave from 11th-19th June at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane** in which we have a part. The procession from Warwick Street will **NOT** be taking place this year.

The collection for the **Priest Training Fund** of our Archdiocese has raised **£2000**. A sincere **"thank you"** to those who contributed.

The annual **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** bike ride to raise funds for a new van for their Soup Run will take place on the weekend of **2nd/3rd July**. This year there will be a new route through London's East End visiting some places of historic interest, starting the ride from the new Crossrail terminus. Riders of all ages and capability will be welcome. More details to follow.

A parishioner has a website encouraging devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (*the devotion for the month of June*). Do look it up: <https://sacredheartofjesus.london/>

On **Sunday 24th June**, as part of the Marylebone Music Festival, our usual Solemn Mass will be celebrated with orchestra and our choir in Manchester Square at 10.30am.

**Point to ponder:**

*"We must be saved together.  
We must come to God  
together. Together, we must  
present ourselves before him.  
What would God say to us if  
some of us were to return  
without the others?"*

(Charles Peguy – French poet)

..... **Other ways to give** .....



Since installing the 3 **"digital collection plates"** in March 2021 over **£61,000** has been given using this method. They can be used to make donations of any amount using contactless or chip and pin (*and directed to specific areas of choice*). The provider suggests those who intend to use the facility regularly **should go online in advance to DONA** and register their chosen card. The option is also there to enable **Gift Aid** for that and future donations.

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**

# St James's Roman Catholic Church

- *Spanish Place* -

22 George Street, W1U 3QY

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
22nd May 2022

[online] Click [here](#) for live stream and **Universalis** for readings. *n Church - Parish Mass Book page 274 or in foreign languages available at the back.*



## TODAY'S LITURGY

### Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

*It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials.*

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

### Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

*He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.*

### John 14:23-29

*The Holy Spirit will remind you of all I have said to you.*

### *The Week Ahead*

Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

23rd Easter feria

24th Easter feria

25th St Bede the Venerable

26th ASCENSION OF THE LORD

[Masses also at 7.15am & 11am]

27th St Augustine

28th Easter feria

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **Sunday 29th May**

8am, 9am [EF]

**10.30am [Solemn Latin]**

Midday, 4pm & 7pm.

The Rosary is recited publicly after 6pm Mass on the weekdays of May.

Latin texts for the Solemn Mass - Parish Mass Book pages 77/78

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (*Rector*)

Monsignor Philip Whitmore

The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (*in residence*)

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## The Rector writes . . . . .

The Bishops of England & Wales have recently issued a statement inviting the Catholic people of our country to return to the Sunday Mass obligation from Pentecost (5th June) which by happy coincidence is the occasion of the Queen's platinum jubilee and a time for national celebration. The Catechism sets out the requirement that: *"on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass"*. Of course, an obligation can only be such when it can be fulfilled, and since the beginning of the Covid pandemic it has been the judgment of our bishops that circumstances impeded the possibility of attendance at Mass and that the obligation has therefore been in abeyance. Our pastors have now recognised that: *"the pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly and we therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass no longer apply"*: they go on to draw the conclusion: *"with humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the coming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person"*.

There is a section in the letter which deals specifically with online streaming and the bishops say that *"virtual viewing does not fulfil the Sunday obligation"*. These words, which might sound a little hard to those many who have been helped through the past two years by regular streaming, apply only to those who genuinely are able to attend Mass in person. But *"it has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday obligation"* and from that principle follows the advice that streaming: *"may, however, be a source of continued spiritual comfort for those who cannot attend Mass, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply"*. We shall continue to live stream Sunday Mass from Spanish Place recognising those many people who are housebound or inhibited from attendance who have come to value this part of the parish's ministry.

Sunday attendance at Mass is of fundamental importance because it meets the First and the Fourth of the great Commandments enjoined on us, but, as the Bishops note, we should see this obligation as *"the greatest of all privileges – a beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy"*. Put another way, we should be at Sunday Mass not because we are told to do so but because we want to be there with our brothers and sisters: *"the Eucharist gives the Church her identity – 'the Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist'"*. While we believe that salvation is individual it can never be divorced from the corporate, and on this shared journey we are making towards eternal life we

need the support of our fellow believers just as they need our support in turn. *"Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with his Word and his Body in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week to serve the Lord and glorify him with our lives"*.

One of the defining characteristics of Catholicism in this country has been a great devotion to the Mass. During penal times (lasting roughly three hundred years) it was difficult and sometimes impossible for the Eucharist to be celebrated and there were many long decades when even to attend Mass could result in arrest and execution. Just on the edge of the parish is a plaque commemorating Tyburn Tree where so many of our martyrs met terrible deaths simply for believing that: *"in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself"*. If past generations realised that the Eucharist was crucial to their life in Christ and were prepared to pay any cost for that realisation, we must hope and pray that their vision is not lost on us. Writing in the fifteenth century, Thomas a Kempis set out to encourage the believers of his generation: his words apply as much to the situation in the England and especially in the London of our times: *"If this most holy Sacrament were celebrated in only one place and consecrated by only one priest in the whole world, with what great desire do you think, would people be attracted to that place, to that priest of God, in order to witness the celebration of the Mysteries? But now there are many priests and Mass is offered in many places, that God's grace and love for us may appear the more clearly as the Sacred Communion is spread more widely through the world"*.

Most Catholics have returned already to Sunday Mass, but there are still some who are nervous about taking the step and others who have fallen out of the routine. Now is the time to encourage any we know in those circumstances to find the way back into their rightful place within the Eucharistic community – we need them to worship with us and they need to be nourished on *"the Bread come down from heaven"* (John 6:58)

**Christopher Colven**

### NOTICES

We move to the next phase of the Paschal Mystery with the celebration of the **ASCENSION of the LORD**. There will be a Vigil Mass at 6pm on Wednesday (25th) and on the day itself (Thursday 26th) Masses will be offered at 7.15am, 9.15am (in the school) 11am (in the Extraordinary Form), 12.30pm & 6pm (a Solemn Mass with the choir). St Vincent's children will process to the church for their May devotion to Our Lady at 2.30pm – always a lovely occasion.

The 4pm Mass this Sunday will see the second group of our children making their First Holy Communion. Please pray for them all on this joyful occasion – and come along to support them if possible.