

## REPOSITORY & INFORMATION

(located in the Memorial Chapel)

**Weekdays 11.00am - 12.30pm**

**Saturday 3.45pm - 4.45pm**

**Sunday 9.45am - 10.30am**

**11.30am - 1.00pm**

**and 3.00pm - 4.00pm**

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.

**Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.**

**On Saturday a priest is available 4.45pm-5.30pm.**

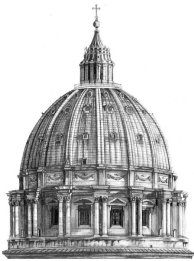
From **9th to 24th May 2025** the Marian Apostles group is organising a **pilgrimage to seven Marian Shrines** including Paray-le-Monial, Provence, Tours, Mont St Michel, home of St Dominic.

Led by Fr Thomas Crean, OP with the Marian Franciscan Sisters.

**For more details contact Annabelle on 07733 223903.**

## JUBILEE YEAR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

**19th to 24th October [note the change of dates]**



It will include 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 £1595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1895 per person (single, with limited availability). Those interested in coming, or wanting further information, are asked to hand in their names to 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  
**WRCDT St James Spanish Place**

We have **"one-off"** white **Gift Aid envelopes** at various locations in church for those who might wish to use them for their cash offering at Sunday Mass. **Please complete all sections and then tick the option for "This" or "all subsequent"**

### ..... Other ways to give

Donations of any amount using contactless or chip and pin (and directed to specific areas - including both the **PARISH** and **ORGAN appeals**) can be made AT FOUR LOCATIONS 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**



## HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**29th December 2024**

Click [here](#) for live stream and [Universalis](#) for readings also available at the back of the church in six languages.

Latin responses for the 10.30am Mass - pages 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book

## TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 105]

**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.2**

*'He who fears the Lord honours his parents.'*

**Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.**

**Colossians 3:12-21**

*Family life in the Lord.*

**Luke 2:41-52**

*Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers*

### The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I

**Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm**

**M 30th Christmas Octave**

**T 31st Christmas Octave**

**Wednesday 1st January**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**10.00am and 12 Noon**

**T 2nd Ss Basil and Gregory**

**F 3rd Holy Name of Jesus**

**S 4th Christmas feria 10.00am**

**Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm**

**5th January 2025**

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**8am, 9am**

**10.30am [Solemn Latin]**

**12 Noon, 4.00pm & 7.00pm**

**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](mailto:spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk)**

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

## The Rector writes . . . . .

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our celebration of Christmas at Spanish Place. It was wonderful to see such a full church, including many who braved the dearth of public transport and still managed to join us for the feasts. Well done! Many thanks to the choir, who sang at no fewer than four of the Christmas Masses, to the servers, readers, collectors, and all who helped us in any way. And particular thanks to all who contributed so generously to the collection for the parish clergy, and indeed to all of you who have sent us kind messages, greetings and gifts. Your goodness towards us is greatly appreciated.

As the saying goes, Christmas comes “*but once a year*”. But don’t believe anyone who tries to tell you it’s now over. We’re still in the middle of the Christmas Octave, when every day for a week is considered to be Christmas Day still. The Christmas insert in the First Eucharistic Prayer bids us refer throughout the Octave to this “*most sacred day on which your Only Begotten Son ... appeared in a human body, truly sharing our flesh*”.

This Sunday, the Sunday within the Christmas Octave, is kept as the **Feast of the Holy Family**. We recall the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, so crucial and so formative for Jesus, and a constant source of inspiration to families today.

The Christmas Octave comes to an end with **New Year’s Day**, which was once kept as the feast of the Circumcision (cf Lk 2:21), but now we keep it as a feast of Our Lady, the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**. The title “*Mother of God*” was adopted by the Council of Ephesus in the year 431. On first sight, it seems to be telling us something about Mary, but the doctrinal content actually refers to her son. Some had argued that Mary should be called Mother of Christ; while she was evidently the mother of the human Jesus, they did not see how she could also be the mother of his divine nature. The doctrine defends the unity of Christ’s person, explaining that Mary could not be mother of only a part of him. Devotion to Our Lady is truly also devotion to her divine son.

**As Wednesday of next week is another Bank Holiday, there will be Mass at 10am, exceptionally also at 12 noon, after which the church will close.**

The Christmas season continues after the end of the Octave, to include the **Epiphany**, celebrated this year on **Sunday 5 January**. Schools resume activity soon afterwards, as does our children’s liturgy, which starts up again on Sunday 12 January. Catechesis for First Holy Communion and for Confirmation will begin in the days after Epiphany. The Christmas season ends on the Sunday after Epiphany, with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, but not before our Epiphany Carol Service on 11 January. Remember that this carol service is followed by a reception in the Rectory, for which tickets, costing £10 per person, can be bought from Lisa Proctor (07740 798472).

**The Jubilee year has now begun.** Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in Saint Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, marking the opening of the Jubilee, dedicated to the theme “*Spes non confundit*” - “*Hope does not disappoint*” (Rom 5:5). As

the Holy Father wrote in the **Bill of Indiction**, “*Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt ... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope.*”

In a Jubilee Year, we are encouraged to make pilgrimages, and special graces are available to those who pass through the holy doors in Rome. Our parish pilgrimage to Rome in October will provide opportunities to do just that, and to renew the hope that sustains us.

New Year’s Day is kept as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**. In his **Peace Message** for this year, Pope Francis says this:

*“May 2025 be a year in which peace flourishes! A true and lasting peace that goes beyond quibbling over the details of agreements and human compromises. May we seek the true peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed: hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others; hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others; hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world.”*

In a Jubilee year, prayer for peace takes on a particular urgency as we focus upon the resolution of debt as well as the righting and the forgiveness of wrongs.

Finally, as **Friday 3 January is the first Friday of the month**, there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** during the afternoon. In December, Exposition finished at 4pm, as there were not enough “*watchers*” ready to make the commitment to spend time in the presence of the Sacrament until the usual concluding time of 5.45pm. If you would like this devotion to continue, do please take the opportunity to sign the sheet at the back of the church, indicating your availability to spend time with the Lord in that setting. Praised be Jesus Christ, praised for evermore.

**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 if you have the time.

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