

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.

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

Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.

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

Printed Flyers detailing our Christmas timetable are available at the back of the church and displayed on the website.

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.

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** coordinates our parochial safeguarding, her contact details are as follows: 07597 190301 spanishplacesg@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk should any concerns be felt.

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" donations.**

..... 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 adjacent QR code.



St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



Gaudete

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th 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 84]

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

'The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.'

Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

'The Lord is at hand.'

Luke 3:10-18

'And we, what shall we do?'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I

Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 16th Advent feria

T 17th Advent feria

W 18th Advent feria

T 19th Advent feria

F 20th Advent feria

S 21st Advent feria 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

22nd December 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am, 9am [1962]

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

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

We've arrived at mid-Advent Sunday, or **Gaudete** Sunday as it's known, from the opening words of the introit "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" - Rejoice in the Lord always. This comes from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians, and indeed, we rejoice because the Lord's coming is now so near, just ten days from this Sunday. In token of this rejoicing, the liturgical colour takes on a rose hue, in contrast to the prevailing purple of Advent. The vestments, the hangings and even the candle on the Advent wreath reflect the special colour of this day, shared with only one other day in the whole Church year, namely mid-Lent, or Laetare Sunday.

The countdown to Christmas begins in earnest on Tuesday, 17 December, when there is just a week to go. These final days of Advent are designated Part Two of the season, when the liturgy takes us through the series of seven so-called "*O antiphons*". Rather prosaically, perhaps, the reason for the name is simply that each of them begins with the expression "*O*". Tuesday's is "*O Sapientia*", rendered in English "*O Wisdom of the Most High, ordering all things with strength and gentleness; come and teach us the way of true knowledge.*" Each day during this final octave, the Magnificat antiphon at Vespers, which we also use as the Gospel Acclamation at Mass, presents us with a series of Old Testament sayings about the Messiah whose coming is so eagerly awaited. The readings at Mass reflect this final countdown as well. Indeed, the Gospel on 17 December is the genealogy of Matthew, with which that first book of the New Testament opens - a challenging reading, if ever there was one.

This weekend we have an **Appeal from the Little Sisters of the Poor**, the much-loved religious sisters who run St Peter's Care Home in Vauxhall and St Anne's Care Home in Stoke Newington, as well as many others throughout this country and further afield. There will be a brief address from one of the Sisters at the end of each Mass, followed by a collection in support of their work. Do please support the collection generously.

We are fast approaching a **Jubilee Year**. Every 25 years, the Church proclaims a year of special grace, following the ancient Jewish tradition of sounding a ram's horn (in Hebrew, *jobel*) to proclaim a year of forgiveness and freedom for the entire people (cf. Lev 25:10). This solemn proclamation was intended to restore God's justice in every aspect of life: in the use of the land, in the possession of goods and in relationships with others, above all the poor and the dispossessed. This Jubilee year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome on Tuesday 24 December 2024 until the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

It is a year when we are particularly encouraged to make a pilgrimage to Rome, where each of the four major basilicas has a Holy Door, opened only in a Jubilee Year. A plenary indulgence may be obtained by passing through one of these Holy Doors, while fulfilling the required conditions. **Our parish pilgrimage** to Rome is scheduled for the month of October. Some recent news about this pilgrimage is that the dates may need to be adjusted in order to obtain good group prices for the flight. Whereas it was originally advertised as 20 to 25 October, it will probably be necessary to bring it forward by one day, which would mean travelling out in the late afternoon of 19 October and returning on the afternoon of 24 October.

Another opportunity to visit Rome during the Jubilee Year is offered to young women, because the Religious of the Assumption are inviting single women (18-30s) open to discerning a call to consecrated life, to take part in a **discernment weekend in Rome from Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February**, enabling participants to celebrate February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**, in Rome.

Nearer home, a number of initiatives are being launched to care for the poor in our midst. The Companions of the Order of Malta are distributing Christmas parcels (<https://www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions/2024/11/15/christmas-parcels-2/>) as is the SVP (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul). Indeed we are invited to contribute to the work of the SVP, which has sent out this message:

"The SVP are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support."

Continued thanks to all those who are contributing to the **Parish Appeal** at Spanish Place, among the many calls on your generosity at this time of year. The current cold weather has highlighted for all of us the need to improve the church heating. And while the organ is still sounding magnificent, it will sound even better when the work of refurbishment has been carried out next year. Thank you again.

I mentioned last weekend the risk that the grants for listed places of worship may be discontinued after March 2025, as nothing was said about them in the recent Government budget. Prior to the budget, the Bishops' Conference published the following: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme/>. In current circumstances, we are encouraged once again to write to our MP, asking that this matter be re-examined.

At a time when much publicity is being given to scams of various kinds, there is one to which I should draw your attention: some scammers are impersonating parish priests and inviting parishioners to send them money. I can assure you that I would never ask any of you to send money to me personally, although I do sometimes encourage you to donate to the parish or to charities! Be immediately suspicious of any message purporting to come from me and soliciting personal donations. That said, the collections taken on Christmas Day are traditionally for the clergy of the parish. Father John and I thank you in advance for your constant generosity towards us!

Philip Whitmore

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.
