

**St James's Roman Catholic Church**  
- *Spanish Place* - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**  
*24th November 2024*

Click [here](#) for live stream and [Universalis](#) for readings - also available in six languages at the back of the church.  
Latin responses at the 10.30am Mass can be found on pages 61/62 in the Parish Mass Book

**The Church opens 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.**

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.*

**A bill has been introduced to Parliament by Kim Leadbeater MP to legalise assisted suicide.** This will be voted on by MPs on **29th November.** We know that assisted suicide laws in other jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for the poor, disabled and marginalised. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs to vote against the bill. **Please urgently contact your MP and ask him/her to vote against the bill. You can contact your MP by visiting [www.livesworthliving.org.uk](http://www.livesworthliving.org.uk) or write to him/her at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.**

**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.

*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 of choice) can be made AT LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



**TODAY'S LITURGY**  
[Parish Mass Book page 160]

**Daniel 7:13-14**  
*His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty.*

**The Lord is king,  
with majesty enrobed.**

**Apocalypse 1:5-8**  
*Rulers of the kings of the earth ... he made us a line of priests to serve his God*

**John 18:33-37**  
*It is you who say that I am a king.*

**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 . . . . .

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King, or to use the full name that appears in the Missal, “**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**”. The feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, so we are about to enter its hundredth year. It is no coincidence that the feast was instituted shortly after the beginning of the Fascist era in Italy, and it was a way of reminding earthly powers that there is a higher power to which we are all subject. “*Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne*”.

As indicated in last week’s newsletter, the parish is to launch an **Appeal beginning this Sunday** and lasting for the full twelve months to take us through to the feast of Christ the King in 2025. **John Gilhooly, CBE**, Director of Wigmore Hall, has kindly agreed to lead the Appeal for us, and he **will be speaking at each Mass this Sunday**.

Last Friday’s performance of Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem Mass in our beautiful church was in fact a Wigmore Hall concert, and it featured our unique, even celebrated, church organ, which is to be overhauled in the course of 2025. A major element of the Appeal will be directed towards the cost of the work on the organ, and indeed the cost of music here at St James’s.

Ours is a most precious musical tradition, which must be maintained for the next generation, but we can only achieve this with your help. Music is central to the life and mission of this Parish. Our liturgies are celebrated in a very dignified way, accompanied by inspirational music all year round in praise of Christ, our true and universal King. For many decades we have employed one of London’s most respected professional church choirs, which people come to hear from far and near at our weekly Solemn Mass and on major feast days. It is imperative, as a Parish community, that we act decisively now to preserve and protect our unique place in London’s Catholic life.

We also need to upgrade our heating system, which is simply no longer fit for purpose. Parishioners have put up with services in a cold church for long enough, and it is high time to fix all of that.

As today’s feast signals the end of the liturgical year, it is a good opportunity to initiate a capital fundraising drive, and to remind our congregation about the powerful impact of weekly or monthly planned giving, and how legacies from parishioners’ estates often have a transformational effect on our overall financial stability. It is also a good time for me, as your Parish Priest, to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your help, and for your financial and voluntary assistance over so many years.

Be assured that it is never taken for granted. Fr John and I constantly remember all you do in our daily masses and our prayers, but Spanish Place needs more help, especially from those who are in position to give most generously. I know these are difficult economic times for many, so parishioners are encouraged to donate only according to their means. Hopefully everybody can do something, especially through your prayers for the success of our endeavours.

Our magnificent church organ was built by Alfred Hunter of Clapham over a century ago. It is widely regarded as one the finest examples of his work. It is a real jewel in the crown of what Spanish Place is about. It was last overhauled in 1982 and is in urgent need of another refurbishment. Years of central London pollution, candle smoke and incense have taken a huge toll, and there is general wear-and-tear of important mechanical parts of the organ. We really need your support to undertake this essential work. It will take around nine months, and the instrument will be entirely removed for that period. It is being entrusted to a company that has taken care of the organ and its maintenance for over 40 years, and they love it as much as we do.

It is very much a restoration, and nothing is being added or taken away. The ambition is to keep the integrity of what first arrived here in 1922. This is the largest financial investment in the organ in over half a century; do have a look at the short film on our website and YouTube about the history of this precious instrument and see for yourself how it is much larger than it looks (it extends for two bays beyond the console that you see from below). The film also highlights the vital cleaning and repair that is needed. Every gift, large or small, will help us in our Parish Appeal. Our overall target is ambitious – we need £500,000 to complete the works. Already, £100,000 has been pledged, including £50,000 from a family associated with the Parish. This is a tremendous start. We have 12 months to raise the remaining £400,000. Please do give what you can.

There are pledge forms available all around the church today, and our website also has a dedicated page for our capital appeal where you can donate online. Organ Fund is also an option on the contactless machines (and this allows Gift Aid to be added). Renewed gratitude to everybody who contributes to our church in so many vital ways. Together we can ensure the continuity of our indispensable mission at Spanish Place. We owe that to the generation that will follow us in this most beautiful of churches.

**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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**Volunteers still sought for the constructing of the outdoor crib on the morning of Friday 6th December.** Names (and contact details) to the Parish Office please.

Young Adults ADVENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 7th December 2024 10am – 6pm.  
Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH  
(closest tube station: High Street Kensington)  
Programme: including talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • mass and social time. Donations only.  
Register by emailing to: [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org)