

A Reminder To All.

DO NOT GIVE MONEY TO THOSE BEGGING ON THE STEPS OR AT THE CHURCH GATES.

Members of the congregation - and visitors - are also reminded to keep a close eye on their belongings. **Please DO NOT leave bags etc in your seat when approaching the Altar rail.** It really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

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.

March 4th is the final day to book The Marian Apostles group pilgrimage to France (9 to 24 May) led by Fr Thomas Crean OP & 2 Marian Franciscan Sisters. There are fliers at the back of the church and a poster on the noticeboard. **For further details please contact: Annabelle 07733223903**

JUBILEE YEAR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

20th to 25th October



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 or wanting further information, are asked to contact 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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd February 2025

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

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



TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 141]

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

'The Lord gave you into my hands today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

'Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.'

Luke 6:27-38

'Be merciful, even as your father is merciful.'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I
Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 24th feria

T 25th feria

W 26th feria

T 27th feria

F 28th feria

S 1st SAINT DAVID 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

2nd March 2025
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

Half-term is over now, at least for St Vincent's, although as some other schools are still away, we won't be resuming the children's liturgy, the First Holy Communion catechesis or the Confirmation catechesis for another week. The dismantling of the organ is about to begin. There will be news about the progress of the Parish Appeal next weekend. Lent is also approaching, indeed **Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 5 March**, just ten days from now. During Lent, there will be a number of special collections, including the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal and the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. So watch this space!

One of the notable events in the calendar in the coming days is the anniversary next Wednesday of the death of the Servant of God, **Cardinal Raphael Merry del Val**, who was baptised in our church in 1865 (at that time, of course, it would have been in the old church, on the corner of Spanish Place). He died suddenly in Rome, at the age of 64, after a glittering career that included a spell as an exceptionally young Secretary of State to Pope St Pius X. His tomb is in the crypt of St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He was born into a noble Spanish family that donated the Lady Chapel to this church, so his connections with us are considerable, even though he didn't spend a great deal of his life in our vicinity.

He is included in the book *"The English Cardinals"*, written almost twenty years ago by two priests of this diocese, Fathers Nicholas Schofield and Gerard Skinner. Towards the end of the Cardinal's life, one of his English visitors asked him what he would consider to be his mother tongue. He spoke several languages in the course of his work, so he found the question hard to answer. When pressed, though, he admitted that he dreamed in English!

This Sunday, being the last Sunday of the month, we look forward to welcoming the young adults at the noon Mass once again. We are much indebted to Father John for his vision and hard work in convening this group. Now that the monthly "faith clinic" as well as the monthly Sunday Mass have become established, we are confident that this initiative will bring many blessings upon the parish community.

Next Saturday, 1 March, is the feast of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. Prayerful congratulations to our Welsh parishioners and indeed to any Davids among us. When Pope Benedict visited us in September 2010, he was unable to include a visit to Wales, but he did take the opportunity to bless the new mosaic of Saint David in Westminster Cathedral. The mosaic depicts an event in the life of Saint David when he was preaching to the crowds, but not everyone could see him, on account of his diminutive

stature. Helpfully, the ground rose miraculously beneath his feet, so that he ended up speaking from a grassy mound in full view and full hearing of his audience. There have been times when I have hoped to experience a similar miracle myself, but I am still waiting!

Of the four nations that make up the United Kingdom, each with its own patron saint, Wales is the only one whose patron saint is a native of the territory. The feast of the patron saint is celebrated as a solemnity in the nation concerned, and as a feast in the other three. So for us in England, next Saturday will be kept as a feast. Saint Patrick's Day always falls in Lent - although Saint David's Day can be before or after the start of Lent: this year it is just before.

The period leading up to the start of Lent is the famous *"Carnival"* season, when in bygone days, the people would say good-bye to meat - which is at least one way of explaining the meaning of the word *"Carnival"*. The rigours of Lent used to be far greater than they are now, and we are no longer asked to abstain from meat during Lent, except on Fridays and on Ash Wednesday itself. When there was extensive fasting during the Lenten season, it made sense to feast in the period immediately preceding. The tradition of making pancakes on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday has a similar origin.

Ash Wednesday, as it happens, will also mark the fifth anniversary - for Italians at least - of the start of the Covid restrictions, as it was on 5 March 2020 that schools and universities throughout Italy were closed. The rest of the world followed not long afterwards. It may seem a long time ago now, as we have grown accustomed to the return of normality, but it was a sobering time for all of us to have to deal with the restrictions on movement and on gathering that were introduced by our governments. We could look back on that time as a *"Tower of Babel"* moment - just when we could be tempted to think we were in control of our destiny and our environment, it became abundantly clear that we were not. Let us always remember that Jesus is Lord - and we are not!

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.

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.