

**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**.

**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 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 **is March 4th** There are flyers 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

**THIRD SUNDAY**  
**in ORDINARY TIME**  
[OF THE WORD OF GOD]  
*26th January 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 129]

**Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10**

*'They read from the book of the Law, and gave the meaning.'*

**Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27**

*'You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.'*

**Luke 1:1-4, 14-21**

*'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.'*



***The Week Ahead***

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

**M 27th feria**

**T 28th S Thomas Aquinas**

**W 29th feria**

**T 30th feria**

**F 31st St John Bosco**

**S 1st BVM on Saturday 10.00am**

**Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm**

**2nd February 2025**  
**The Presentation of the Lord**  
**CANDLEMAS**

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 . . . . .

After all Masses this weekend we have the **White Flower Appeal**, a collection in support of the work of **SPUC**, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children ([spuc.org.uk](http://spuc.org.uk)). While the principal emphasis is the fight against abortion, in fact the Society campaigns for the defence of life wherever it comes under threat. The name of the Appeal is a reference to the White Rose movement associated especially with Hans and Sophie Scholl, German students who resisted the Nazi regime during the Second World War. We may take pride in the knowledge that the writings of St John Henry Newman helped to influence these courageous young people in their understanding of the obligation to obey their conscience (cf. <https://www.newmancanonisation.com/blog/how-newman-inspired-the-white-rose-resistance-in-nazi-germany>). I know you will want to support this worthy cause.

Other worthy causes supported by you in recent months have included the **Columban missionaries** and, closer to home, the **Little Sisters of the Poor**. Both collections raised over £3,000, and the Columban missionaries as well as the Little Sisters have written to express their thanks for your generosity - see the posters at the back of the church.

Next weekend, the feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** falls on a Sunday, so it takes precedence over the 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time. The liturgy will be that of the Presentation, or Candlemas as it is sometimes known, because candles are distributed, blessed and lit in order to express our devotion to Christ, the "*light to enlighten the Gentiles*" - *lumen ad revelationem Gentium* - to quote from Simeon's prophecy, the canticle *Nunc Dimittis*. Do be sure to collect a candle when you come to Mass next Sunday.

Because it is the day when Jesus was handed over to the Lord in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, it is kept as a **Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**, when we celebrate all those who have similarly handed their lives over to the Lord, whether in a religious order or in some other form of consecrated life. Their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are a reminder to us all of the primacy of God in all things, and the importance for us all, whether or not we live those vows, of practising detachment from the worldly goods that consecrated persons freely renounce.

As 2025 is a Jubilee year, there will be a Jubilee of Consecrated Life in Rome in the course of the year. The emphasis next weekend will be on Jubilee celebrations at home, but these will be followed by an international Jubilee for consecrated persons in Rome later in the year, at the start of October.

Although the feast of the Presentation is seen very much as a feast of Our Lord, it has a significance also for Our Lady. Simeon's prophecy that a sword of sorrow would pierce her heart is the origin of the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. So we anticipate on this day both the *Stabat Mater*, which as usual will form a prelude to our celebration of Holy Week when the choir sings Pergolesi's famous setting of this text - as well as the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, kept on 15 September.

The feast of the Presentation was formerly known as the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, a reference to the Jewish practice whereby women who had given birth would remain at home for forty days before taking part in public worship once more. That is why the feast of the Presentation comes forty days after Christmas, and indeed some choose to retain their cribs until that date, though not beyond. The Feast of the Presentation is also the last day on which the *Alma Redemptoris Mater* is sung as the Marian antiphon: until the Easter Triduum, its place is taken by the *Ave Regina Caelorum*.

This weekend the newly-formed **Young Adults group** will meet for the first time. They will be present at the midday Mass on Sunday, and will be gathering in the Hall downstairs afterwards. We pray for our young adults, that through this initiative they will be able to grow closer to Christ and to one another. Sunday is a very full day, because apart from the six celebrations of Mass, and the newly-formed Young Adults group, we also have the children's liturgy during the 4pm Mass, which in turn is followed by confirmation catechesis for our teenagers as well as the RCIA for adults interested in being baptised or received into the Church.

We are grateful to all those who volunteer their services in any way, whether as readers, altar servers, catechists, collectors, or through the social outreach programmes under the auspices of the Companions of the Order of Malta and our own parish SVP. There is always room to involve more people, so do please contact the Parish Office or fill in a volunteer form from the back of the church if you would like to assist in any of these areas. It is particularly helpful to have some extra hands on deck for Christmas and Easter, when many of our regular worshippers travel away from London, leaving us a little under-resourced. Involvement in parish life in these ways is an excellent way to deepen one's commitment to the task of evangelizing our world and sharing the joy of the Gospel.

**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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