

Please **DO NOT** give money to those begging on the steps or at the church gates, as we have established charities operating here four nights a week. We ask all parishioners - and visitors - to keep a close eye on their belongings **DO NOT** leave bags unattended during Communion, it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

## Fridays of Lent

Stations of the Cross follow the 6pm Mass



# St James's Roman Catholic Church

- *Spanish Place* - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

## THIRD Sunday of LENT

23rd March 2025

Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)  
Readings available on [Universalis](#)  
Foreign languages available at the back of the church

Solemn Latin responses on pages 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book



### TODAY'S LITURGY

[Parish Mass Book page 160]

**Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15**  
*'I am' has sent me to you.'*

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious.**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**  
*The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.*

**Luke 13:1-9**  
*'Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'*

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)

Part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust Registration No: 233699

### Parish Repository

(located in the Memorial Chapel)

Weekdays	11.00	-	12.30
Saturday	15.45	-	16.45
Sunday	09.45	-	10.30
	11.30	-	13.00
	15.00	-	16.00

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.

### Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 20th-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 £1,595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1,895 per person (single, with limited availability). **Those interested, or wanting further information, contact the parish office.**

The St Vincent de Paul Society wishes to thank you for your generous support and donations to our February 2025 appeal. We have been in receipt of nearly **£3,000** so far. This will go towards helping the homeless and low paid communities which we serve. A very special thank you to those who have promised to contribute monthly to our efforts. We are here to answer any questions you may have about our services and efforts.

All enquiries 07814510991 (WhatsApp or text)

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**' Gift Aid envelopes at various locations in church for cash offerings at Sunday Mass. *Please complete all sections* before ticking '**This**' or '**all subsequent**' donations.



Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN (including both **PARISH** and **ORGAN** appeals) can be made AT FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



## The Rector writes . . . . .

**This Sunday we have the Lenten collection for CAFOD.** The envelopes that were distributed last weekend can be returned this weekend. Elizabeth Carey's article on the parish website highlights the plight of Lokho and her community in drought-stricken Northern Kenya. Had it not been for the assistance of a local CAFOD partner, they would have been unable to grow crops, and the choice would have been to migrate or starve, but thankfully a better solution was found. There are many calls on the generosity of parishioners at this time, but Lent is the season for almsgiving, so do please consider supporting this worthy initiative.

Next weekend, the **Annual Mission Appeal** will be given by the **Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus**, also known as the **Verona Fathers**, because their founder, Saint Daniel Comboni, established the institute in that beautiful northern Italian city. The Catholic Missionary Union, one of the consultative bodies of the Bishops' Conference, has assigned the Verona Fathers to our Diocese for the Annual Appeal this year. There is a poster in the George Street porch advertising the Appeal.

As this is the Sunday closest to the feast of the Annunciation, it has also been designated the occasion to collect for the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, in support of the Jubilee initiatives and projects taking place there. Opportunities to contribute can be found at the Shrine's website <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/support-shrine/>.

The feast itself falls on Tuesday, 25 March, when we recall the moment of the Incarnation, and the free consent given by Our Blessed Lady to the angel's extraordinary and life-changing proposal. It is the moment that we recall every time we pray the Angelus and every time we pray the first joyful mystery of the rosary. As Pope Benedict XVI has written: *"Through her obedience, the Word entered into her and became fruitful in her. In this connection, the Fathers developed the idea of God's birth in us through faith and baptism, in which the Logos comes to us ever anew, making us God's children."*

As some of you will recall, just five years ago, on the Sunday following the Feast of the Annunciation, namely 29 March 2020, England was re-dedicated as the Dowry of Mary. It had been planned that this event would be widely celebrated, although the unexpected circumstances of the lockdown made it impossible to do so publicly. The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham is strongly associated with this dedication, which has a long and distinguished history. Not far away from our church, in the National Gallery on Trafalgar Square, it is possible to view the famous Wilton Diptych, which depicts King Richard II kneeling before the Virgin and Child and entrusting his kingdom to their special protection - an image which is closely linked to the theme of England's dedication as Mary's Dowry.

There has been no shortage of news in recent weeks. One important item of news that could easily be missed, amid the great volume of international events, is the preparation for the Third Reading of the **Assisted Dying Bill**. Many of you

will be aware that one of the safeguards of which we were assured has recently been removed, namely the need for a judge to approve any application for assisted suicide. In consequence of the removal of this safeguard, many MPs who voted for the bill on its First Reading are now considering voting against it, so there is a good chance that the bill could still be defeated. A petition has been organised, inviting MPs to reconsider their stance on the bill, and we are encouraged to consider signing it. Interested readers may wish to listen to a podcast on the issue, recorded by Bishop John Sherrington of this diocese (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/life-bishop-on-next-steps-to-oppose-the-assisted-suicide-bill/>) and to sign the petition, which can be accessed by scanning the adjacent QR code.



We were very proud this week to see our parishioner, **Councillor Robert Rigby**, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, invested as a **Knight of St Gregory** at our cathedral. This order of Papal Knights was established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831. As Bishop Nicholas Hudson said, when investing the candidate, membership of the Order *"is conferred as a reward for services to the Holy See and the Church on people of proved loyalty, who must maintain unswerving fidelity to God, the Supreme Pontiff, the Holy See and the Church. Becoming a Knight or Dame does not merely mean receiving a title of honour – even though it is well deserved – but fighting evil, promoting good and defending the weak and oppressed against injustice."* We continue to pray for the Lord Mayor and his important service to our community here in Westminster.

Next weekend being the last of the month, the **Young Adults group** will be gathering once again at the midday Mass. It has been most encouraging to see the wide support given to this recent initiative in the life of the parish and we hope that the group will go from strength to strength in the weeks and months ahead. Next Sunday being also the midway point in Lent, it is kept as *"Laetare Sunday"*, a day for rejoicing that the feast of Easter is approaching. In the meantime, Father John and I wish all our parishioners a joyful continuation of this season of preparation for the great feast that lies ahead of us.

**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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**Safeguarding** is an important and indeed crucial part of the life we share as a parish. Should any concerns be felt, **Denise Hines** coordinates our parochial safeguarding, her contact details are as follows: 07597 190301 [spanishplacesg@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk](mailto:spanishplacesg@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk)

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**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.**