

## 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.

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development** 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (*Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference*), Christine Allen (*CAFOD's Director*) and Kayode Akintola (*CAFOD's Head of Africa*) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.

**Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome.**

**Register here for free: [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)**

The Marian Apostles group is organising a special **pilgrimage to France on 9 to 24 May 2025** led by Fr Thomas Crean & 2 Marian Franciscan Sisters to 7 Marian shrines including Paray-le-Monial, Mont St Michel, Oratory of the Holy Face of Jesus, apparition sites of St Joseph & St Anne, the Biblical characters of St Mary Magdalene, St Lazarus & St Martha, & St John Vianney, St Louie Marie de Monfort, home of St Dominic, & more. Three of the places are celebrating the Jubilee, particularly, we will do the Jubilee Way and pass through the Holy Door where St Anne appeared to gain the indulgence.

The final day to book is March 4.

**For more details please contact: Annabelle 07733223903**

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

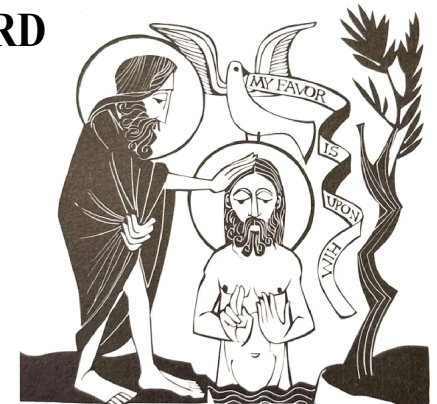
- **Spanish Place** - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

## The BAPTISM of the LORD

12th January 2025

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 118]

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

'Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.'

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Acts 10:34-38**

'God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.'

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

'When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.'

### The Week Ahead

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

M 13th feria

T 14th feria

W 15th feria

T 16th feria

F 17th St Anthony

S 18th BVM on Saturday 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

19th January 2025

**SECOND 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](mailto:spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk)

Web: [www.sjrcc.org.uk](http://www.sjrcc.org.uk)

## The Rector writes . . . . .

The **Baptism of the Lord**, this Sunday's feast, is a pivotal moment in the Church's year. The last day of the Christmas season, it concludes the narrative about Jesus's "*hidden years*" and it launches him on his three-year public ministry with a wonderful testimony to his divine sonship, as the Father's voice is heard from heaven and the Spirit descends on him like a dove. Some would argue that this was the moment at which the man Jesus received his mission. That is not the view of the Church, indeed the whole point of the infancy narratives is to explain that his mission predated even his birth in Bethlehem, but it is certainly the moment at which the man Jesus became fully aware of his mission and was revealed as the Son of God to those privileged to witness this moment.

That is why the Baptism in the Jordan was chosen by Pope St John Paul II as the first of the "*mysteries of light*" that he added to the rosary just over 20 years ago. The five mysteries chosen, each from Our Lord's public ministry, are all moments of revelation, moments that disclose the divine identity and mission of Jesus our Saviour. For this reason, many theologians throughout the history of the Church have seen this feast as a further "*epiphany*" - the other side of the coin from the Visit of the Magi that we celebrated last weekend. Indeed, the motet that the Choir is to sing during the Offertory at Mass on Sunday, Palestrina's *Tribus miraculis*, is a setting of the Magnificat antiphon from the feast of the Epiphany which explores this very idea - "*three wonders mark this day we celebrate*", the three wonders being the manifestation of the infant Jesus to the Magi, his Baptism in the Jordan and the miracle at the marriage feast of Cana - about which more next weekend.

Palestrina, incidentally, was born in 1525, so this year marks his quincentenary. There are to be a number of concerts featuring his music in St James's Church in the course of the year, as part of the Wigmore Hall concert series - but more of that in due course.

Next week we return immediately to Ordinary Time, as it is rather prosaically known in English, although there is nothing "*ordinary*" about the mysteries of salvation that we celebrate throughout the Church's year. It is a time when we return to green liturgical colours (except on saints' days), after the predominant white of the Christmas season. Green indicates growth, life and hope, and its use is most fitting as we move from the particular events of Our Lord's infancy to the principal narrative of his ministry among us.

This year, of course, is a Jubilee year, when we are encouraged to focus particularly on our identity as "*pilgrims of hope*". CAFOD is organizing an online introduction to the Jubilee year on the morning of Saturday 18 January, for which it is possible to register at [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee). A particularly appropriate way to mark a Jubilee year is, of course, to make a pilgrimage. Elsewhere on the newsletter there are advertisements for a pilgrimage to Marian shrines in France, led by Father Thomas Crean OP, and for our own parish pilgrimage to Rome in October of this year.

This past week has seen the start of the **First Holy Communion** and **First Reconciliation** catechesis for our young children. The First Reconciliation will be celebrated in early February, while the First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 10 May. **This Sunday sees the return of the children's liturgy during the 4pm Mass** as well as the start of the **Confirmation classes** for our teenagers, to be held in the Social Centre after the 4pm Mass. The Confirmation itself is scheduled for Sunday 18 May during the 4pm Mass, when Bishop Nicholas Hudson will come once again to celebrate the sacrament with us.

It should be noted that adults requesting the sacrament of Confirmation should seek to join the **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), rather than the classes for teenagers. The RCIA process begins in the autumn and is aimed principally at the Easter Vigil, when adult candidates for baptism and confirmation typically receive those sacraments.

Next weekend sees the start of the **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**, a time when that worthy intention receives a particular emphasis in our prayer. Originally conceived in 1908 by the co-founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, Fr Paul Wattson, it spanned the period between what was then the feast of the Chair of Peter in Rome and the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul - giving a very Roman flavour to the Octave.

This year, the Octave of Prayer makes particular reference to the 1700th anniversary of the great Ecumenical Council of Nicea, held in the year 325. As well as being a significant anniversary of this key event in the life of the early Church, it has a particular resonance for the intention of Christian Unity, since belief in the creed formulated at that Council is something that unites the principal Christian traditions, despite the tragic divisions that occurred later in our history. Every Sunday we profess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed - *Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium*. The faith that unites us is what gives hope and direction to our lives, however stormy the seas we are called upon to navigate. As Saint Paul said in his Letter to the Romans, "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Rom 8:31).

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

<p><b>Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.</b> <b>On Saturday a priest is available 4.45pm-5.30pm.</b></p>
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