

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.

Following the recent vote on "Assisted Suicide" The Good Counsel Network ask you to join in the request of Our Lady of Fatima, by making the First Five Saturdays starting on Saturday the 7th December and then on the following four first Saturdays of each month.

The devotion can be summarised as follows: **sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, the recitation of five decades of the Rosary, meditation for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary** all with the intention of making reparation to Our Blessed Lady.

You can see how your MP voted on the recent bill here, <https://votes.parliament.uk/votes/commons/division/1877>

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

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



St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8th December 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 pages 77/78 in the Parish Mass Book

TODAY'S LITURGY [Parish Mass Book page 84]

Baruch 5:1-9

'God will show your splendour'

**What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.**

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

'Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ'

Luke 3:1-6

'All flesh shall see the salvation of God'

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I

Masses at 12.30pm and 6.00pm

M 9th IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

T 10th Advent feria

W 11th Advent feria

T 12th Advent feria

F 13th St Lucy

S 14th St John of the Cross 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

15th December 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am, 9am [1962]

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

No, it isn't the feast of the **Immaculate Conception** this Sunday, even though it's 8 December. When 8 December falls on a Sunday, it is kept as the second Sunday of Advent, while the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to **Monday 9 December**. This is because the Sundays of Advent take precedence over feasts of Our Lord, feasts of Our Lady and feasts of the Saints.

The Lady Chapel in our church is dominated by a reproduction of a great painting of the Immaculate Conception, by the Spanish painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617-1682). Although he lived some two centuries before the doctrine was defined, the prominent place this subject occupied in his output demonstrates how well established the dogma was in the popular imagination long before its definition.

The doctrine refers not to the miraculous conception of Our Lord, but to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother Saint Anne. It teaches that she was *"from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."* The doctrine illustrates the power of Christ's Redemption to take away the sins of the world. And it shows us how Mary was predestined for salvation through God's gracious choice.

When Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858, the last of her various messages was delivered in the local dialect, when she said *"I am the Immaculate Conception"*. Bernadette didn't understand, but when she delivered the message to the parish priest, he understood immediately that this must be the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose Immaculate Conception had been solemnly defined by Pope Pius IX a few years earlier.

The Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast of our friends at the neighbouring parish of Farm Street, so we remember them particularly in our prayers as they celebrate their feast-day.

The mother of Mary, Saint Anne, is the secondary patron of our own church. She is depicted at the right-hand end of the reredos on the sanctuary, and there is also a rather fine statue of her holding her daughter Mary, who in turn is holding her son Jesus - three generations depicted in one statue, situated just behind the altar rails beside the altar of Saint Michael and the English Martyrs on the Blandford Street side of the church.

The focus in the readings this weekend is on the figure of Saint John the Baptist, the great forerunner of Our Lord. Saint Luke in his Gospel describes the extraordinary circumstances of John's birth to Elizabeth, a relative of Our Lady, which would make John a cousin of Our Lord. Sacred art frequently depicts them together as infants. He encouraged the people of Palestine to make themselves ready for the first coming of Christ. That message is a particularly apt one for us as we move deeper into the season of Advent.

We are still in the first part of the season, before the focus sharpens in anticipation of the birth of Christ. Nevertheless, anticipations of Christmas are

beginning to overtake us, as I am sure our worshippers have noticed. We now have two cribs in place at St James's Church, one on the outside of the building, on the George Street side, and one in process near the Repository. But the baby Jesus will not arrive in either crib until Christmas itself. On Wednesday of the coming week, the Order of Malta will hold its Carol Service at Saint James's Church. Our own **Parish Carol Service** follows next week, on **18 December**, and there will be an opportunity to attend the Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral on the following day (tickets are available through Ticketmaster).

Flyers are already available with the times of all our Christmas services. Do please take one home with you this weekend. Given that many of our parishioners go elsewhere for Christmas itself, it is hoped that they will be able to attend either or both of the **Carol Services** - one in anticipation of Christmas, on **Wednesday 18 December**, and one to mark the **Epiphany on Saturday 11 January 2025**, the final event listed on the flyer. A drinks party will take place in the Rectory after the Epiphany Carol Service - tickets for this drinks reception cost £10 per person and can be bought from Lisa Proctor (07740 798472).

A huge **thanks to all who have already contributed to the Spanish Place Appeal**. Donation forms are always available at the back of the Church. We need to raise £400,000 within one year if we are to upgrade our inadequate heating facilities and to refurbish our wonderful church organ. Please help us if you can. Every single gift will make a difference.

Next weekend there will be an **Appeal for the Little Sisters of the Poor**, a congregation of sisters that cares for the elderly and the poor, particularly through their network of care homes. Here in London we have two of their homes, Saint Peter's in Vauxhall and Saint Anne's in Stoke Newington. One of the sisters will speak after each of the Masses next Sunday. Their congregation was founded by Saint Jeanne Jugan in 19th-century France. Given the fierce persecution of the Church that accompanied the Revolution, it is a sign of great hope to see how many spiritual fruits emerged in the Church in France in the course of the following century.

The Holy Father's prayer intention for this month of December is linked to the Jubilee Year to be held in 2025. He says this: *"We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope."* Amid all the signs of darkness in our world, both literally and metaphorically, our faith in Christ, the Light of the World, is surely a great source of hope.

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 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturday