

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.



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.

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.

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

SECOND SUNDAY
in ORDINARY TIME
19th 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 127]

Isaiah 62:1-5

'The bridegroom rejoices over the bride.'

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

'The one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.'

John 2:1-11

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee.'

The Week Ahead

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

M 20th feria

T 21st S Agnes

W 22nd feria

T 23rd feria

F 24th St Francis de Sales

S 25th Conversion of St Paul 10.00am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.00pm

26th January 2025

THIRD SUNDAY

in ORDINARY TIME

[OF THE WORD OF GOD]

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

This weekend, we begin the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. It is thirty years now since Pope St John Paul II made this astonishing statement in his Encyclical Letter *Ut Unum Sint* of 1995: *“Whatever relates to the unity of all Christian communities clearly forms part of the concerns of the primacy. As Bishop of Rome I am fully aware ... that Christ ardently desires the full and visible communion of all those Communities in which, by virtue of God's faithfulness, his Spirit dwells. I am convinced that I have a particular responsibility in this regard, above all in acknowledging the ecumenical aspirations of the majority of the Christian Communities and in heeding the request made of me to find a way of exercising the primacy which, while in no way renouncing what is essential to its mission, is nonetheless open to a new situation. For a whole millennium Christians were united in ‘a brotherly fraternal communion of faith and sacramental life ... If disagreements in belief and discipline arose among them, the Roman See acted by common consent as moderator’. In this way the primacy exercised its office of unity ... I insistently pray the Holy Spirit to shine his light upon us, enlightening all the Pastors and theologians of our Churches, that we may seek—together, of course—the forms in which this ministry may accomplish a service of love recognized by all concerned.”*

Our prayer is that the primacy exercised by the Bishop of Rome will indeed become a source of full and visible unity for all Christians, so that the world may believe.

The Octave of Prayer comes to an end on 25 January, the feast of the **Conversion of Saint Paul**. His encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus truly changed his life, and made him an indefatigable advocate of the Gospel. We do well to seek the intercession of the Apostle of the Gentiles for our great task of evangelisation, which would benefit enormously were the divisions within the Body of Christ to be overcome.

Another saint that we recall during the Octave is **Saint Agnes**, whose feast falls on 21 January. A native of Rome, she was only 12 years old when she shed her blood for her fidelity to Christ, during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. Her name resembles the Latin word for “lamb” and she is often depicted with a lamb, as indeed she is on the altarpiece at St James’s, where she is just to the left of the Magi. It is on her feast-day in Rome that lambs are blessed in the church that was built at her place of burial, Sant’Agnese fuori le Mura, above the catacombs of St Agnes. Those lambs eventually produce the wool from which the pallium is made for new archbishops appointed that year.

Next weekend sees the annual **White Flower Appeal**, when a collection is taken in support of the work of SPUC, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. The title of the appeal makes reference to the White Rose movement, whereby young students from the University of Munich resisted the Nazi regime and its culture of death during the early 1940s. Hans and Sophie Scholl were the principal instigators. We are encouraged to imitate their courage in speaking truth to power so as to defend our God-given gift of life.

We are also asked to publicise an activity of the Catenian Association next month:

“Catholic professionals are warmly invited to a distinguished networking dinner at the East India Club on Monday, 10 February 2025, starting at 6:30 PM. The evening features speeches from the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster and Bishop David Waller of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, offering valuable perspectives on leadership in civic and ecclesiastical life. Hosted by the London Charterhouse Catenians, the event includes a three-course meal, wine, coffee, and mints. Cost: £75. Please email dining@catenians.org.uk to reserve your place.”

Now that the Christmas season is over, the **refurbishment of the church organ** can begin. Many thanks to all who have supported the Appeal so far, which helps us to defray the considerable cost of this work and the cost of renewing the heating system. We continue to welcome contributions, so do take a copy of the Appeal leaflet from the back of the church if you have yet to do so. If you are a UK taxpayer, it is possible to Gift Aid your contribution, which would be of great benefit to the church.

Mention was made in a recent newsletter of the **Grants for Listed Places of Worship**, and the concern that the Government has not taken action to extend this provision after its expiry at the end of March 2025. There is to be a debate on the future of Scheme in Westminster Hall on Wednesday, 22 January at 9.30am, and a Minister from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will respond. We are urged to encourage our MP to attend this debate, as a decision is expected soon and the loss of the Scheme would be very damaging for churches such as our own which are facing expensive restoration work. Information about the debate can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme>.

Currently our heating system is just about able to keep the cold at bay, which has been a blessing during the recent cold weather, but there is no guarantee that it will be able to continue for a further winter. There are considerable savings to be made in fuel bills, as long as we can provide the initial outlay required to replace the boilers. Renewed thanks to all those whose contributions have helped make a new heating system possible.

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.

Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.
On Saturday a priest is available **4.45pm-5.30pm.**

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