

The enrolment for the 2020/2021 **Sacramental Programmes** is ongoing. Forms are available at the back of church – and also online, (see the parish website). If you are a parent looking for First Holy Communion for a child, a teenager looking for Confirmation, or an adult wanting to know more about the Faith or to come into closer communion with the Catholic Church, then there is a programme for you.

CAFOD's Harvest collection will be taken over the coming weekend of 24th/25th October. A donor has promised to match whatever is raised so there is a double motive for generosity this year. Envelopes are available at the back of church which can be used (with the Gift Aid section completed if applicable) to donate.

If you can help the parish either by a one-off donation or by a commitment to regular giving, it would be greatly appreciated. More information from the parish office, the website, or use the bank details set out below:-

HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY
Sort code: 40-05-20 Account no: 91094394
WRCDT Spanish Place

During November at least one Mass each day is offered for those whose names are included on the **NOVEMBER DEAD LIST**. Should you want names added to the List, pick up a form at the back of church and leave it either in the sacristy or the rectory door.

A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that these (treatable conditions) are not ground for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk for more information.

The **soup kitchen** organised by the Order of Malta is now functioning on Mondays as well as on Thursday evenings in the social centre.

We continue to stream the 10.30am Solemn Mass with the choir.
The link is:- <https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamessSpanishPlace>

*St James's Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place,
22 George Street, London W1U 3QY*



**29th Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

18th October 2020

TODAY'S LITURGY

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

*I have taken Cyrus by his right hand
to subdue nations before him.*

Give the Lord glory and power

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

We constantly remember your faith, your love and your hope.

St Matthew 22:15-21

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.

The link for the streaming of the Sunday 10.30am Mass is:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamessSpanishPlace>

Music at 10.30am

Missa Salve Regina Victoria

Ave maris stella Grieg; O sacrum convivium Victoria

Toccata in F (BuxWV 157) Buxtehude

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend Canon Stuart Wilson

The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (in residence)

Telephone: 020 7935 0943

Email: spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

Does the name Carlo Acutis mean anything to you? If not you will probably hear a lot about him in coming months. Carlo was beatified last weekend in Assisi and the symbols associated with him – a laptop, a rosary and the Blessed Sacrament – underline the reality that, in all probability, he will be the first millennial to be declared a saint. The most remarkable fact about Blessed Carlo is his age – he was fifteen when he died. To have matured so early in the things of God is a true miracle of grace made all the more interesting for us in Marylebone as we can claim him as a sort of neighbour. Carlo Acutis was born in London, baptised at the Servite Church on Fulham Road and spent his earliest days in South Kensington - before his parents set up home in Milan where he was to spend the rest of his short life.

The Acutis family was nominally Catholic but not practising: his Mother says that she went to Mass only for her First Communion, Confirmation and her wedding but from a very young age Carlo seemed to have had a special capacity for friendship with God which took on a new depth once he began to receive the Eucharist. He became a daily Communicant, often spending a Holy Hour of adoration before or after Mass; he went to confession each week and he could write *“the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven”*. A witness records that Carlo: *“managed to drag his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way round: it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive communion daily”*.

Precocious yes, in the things of the spirit, but in others ways a thoroughly ordinary representative of his own generation. Carlo loved video games and was adept at Super Mario and Pokémon – this facility with his laptop led him to teach himself how to programme and he set up websites cataloguing the world’s Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions,, to which he was adding up until his death.. At the beatification ceremony it was said about him: *“he was an ordinary boy, simple, spontaneous, likeable – he loved nature and animals, he played football, he had many friends of his own age, he was attracted by modern means of communication to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty”*.

As he entered his teenage years, Carol Acutis was given the diagnosis of the leukaemia which was to end his earthly life. His adolescence cannot have been easy with the attempts at treatment and increasing weakness and discomfort. He offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church saying: “I offer all the suffering I have to endure for the Lord, for the Pope and the Church”. When asked by a doctor about the level of his

pain, he responded: *“there are people who suffer much more than me”*. He died on 12th October 2006 and out of his devotion to Saint Francis he asked to be buried in Assisi, For the beatification ceremony there last Sunday, Carlo’s body was displayed in a glass casket dressed in the jeans and a pair of Nikes, the casual clothes he preferred in life. If he had still been alive, he would only be twenty-nine.

What does Blessed Carlo Acutis have to say to us? Firstly, the Church encourages us to ask for his intercession. At every stage on the way to canonization there have to be significant signs that a saint is in heaven and in Therese of Lisieux’s phrase *“doing good works on earth”*. We should be confident in asking Carlo’s prayer, but it is the examples he sets which underlines his importance for us today. We expect sanctity to be a gift of the Spirit which attaches to age – we assume there must be a certain maturity of experience if we are truly to have *“the mind of Christ”*. Blessed Carlo blows those expectancies out of the water. He demonstrates that a teenager can have as intimate an understanding of God’s heart as anyone, and he stands as a challenge to all our young people to take the Gospel seriously – and to want to become saints in their turn. *“Those who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen”* (Wisdom 3:9)

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

Current Mass times are:-

Weekdays: 12.30pm & 6pm (church open from Midday)

Saturdays: 10am & 6pm (church open from 9.30am)

Sundays: 8am, 9am (Extraordinary Form),

10.30am (Solemn with choir),

Midday, 4pm & 7pm (church open from 7.30am)

At present, **CONFESSIONS** are heard only on request: please feel free to ring the bell at the rectory at any (reasonable!) time and ask for a priest..

You are asked to leave a **Red Sheet** on the seat you have used so that it can be sanitised for the next user. If you have a smart phone you will find a **QR bar code near the doors** which can be scanned and connects to the NHS Test and Trace app. If you do not have the app you can continue to leave details on the back of a red sheet.