

The Order of Malta Volunteers are continuing to feed the hungry on Monday and Thursday evenings - at present, they are distributing food at the gate as present restrictions preclude the use of the social centre.

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 code near the doors** which can be scanned and connects to the NHS track & trace Covid-19 app. If you do not have the app you can continue to leave details on the back of a red sheet.

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

A note concerning a small but significant change in the Mass:-

From Advent Sunday, those with attentive ears will pick up on a change to the conclusion of the collects (prayers) used in the celebration of Mass. The Catholic Church being universal and embracing so many different languages and cultures retains Latin for its basic texts. The translation of these Latin texts by local bishops' conferences can sometimes be problematic. Accuracy is important as we work on the principal of "*lex orandi*" "*lex credendi*" – that what we believe is expressed in our worship and vice versa. Concern has been expressed that the current formula used in English for the conclusion of the collects does not translate the Trinitarian emphasis expressed in the Latin original and so a correction is considered necessary. For those who would like to explore the rationale further the explanatory notes provided by our own Bishops' Conference are available on the parish website.

Bossuet's Prayer to Christ the King:-

King Jesus, to whom we so rightfully belong,
who hast redeemed us at the cost of infinite love and charity,
I acknowledge you as my sovereign. For you alone do I want to live and work. Your love will be my life, your law the law of my heart. I will sing your praises: never will I cease to proclaim your mercies. I desire to be faithful, to belong to you without reservation. I wish to dedicate the efforts of my life to you, and to live and die in your service. Amen.

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



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
King of the Universe
22nd November 2020

TODAY'S LITURGY

Ezekial 34:11-12,15-17

The Lord will judge between sheep and sheep

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

*Christ will hand over the kingdom
to God the Father;
so that God may be all in all.*

St Matthew 25:31-46

*I was naked and you clothed me;
sick, and you visited me.*

Music

Missa Papae Marcelli *Palestrina*
Ecce vicit *Leo Philips*
Sonata (Allegro maestoso) *Elgar*

The link for the live stream of the Sunday 10.30am Mass is:

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

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend Canon Stuart Wilson

The Reverend Mark Elliott Smith (in residence)

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The Rector writes

Am I the only person in Britain not to have watched (as yet) the new series of Netflix's "*The Crown*"? From the reports and comments it would seem to be good fun but poor history. Judging by the number of programmes on varying television channels the interest in the doings, past and present, of our own Royal Family seem to hold the interest of a large section of the population – all of which complicates the feast with which we end the Christian Year this weekend, that of **Christ the Universal King**. Given our own national history, it is inevitable that any notions of monarchy are profoundly overlaid by our own experience of the ruling sovereign. While we hold Queen Elizabeth II in the deepest regard and affection, the images we have of her (particularly those oft-repeated of her Coronation) tend to emphasise "*otherness*". That is as it must be, for the very point of human monarchy is to raise up one of our own number above the rest so that he or she becomes a focus for unity and cohesion, something achieved in a remarkable way by our present Queen not just in serving our own islands, but in helping a Commonwealth of nations emerge from their imperial past.

In response to a question about the nature of Christ's Kingship, Benedict XVI once replied: "*early pictures of Christ on the Cross show him as the risen Christ, as King. He is shown with his eyes open, so as to make clear that the Godhead did not die that it is still living and still gives life*". The iconography of Christ's sovereignty has more to do with a crown of thorns and a broken heart than with any orb or sceptre for this absolute statement of self-sacrificial love speaks of intimacy rather than distance, of identity rather than difference. The Second Person of the Eternal Trinity assumes human flesh ("*his state was divine but (he) emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave*": Philippians 2:7) "*because God wanted all perfection to be found in him, and all things to be reconciled through him and for him*" (Colossians 1:20). The Scriptural insight into Christ's kingship is that of God reaching out a hand towards each of us through his Son and "*being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross*". For the Christian, the supreme symbol of Divine sovereignty must ever remain the cross - "*the language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save*".

In celebrating the Kingship of Christ we have to recognise that this can only be defined by the Paschal Mystery and not by any secular model, no matter how positive that might be. Christ's exercise of universal authority is in no sense derivative – it is his as the Word "*who was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being, but through him*" (John 1:2). The exercise of this sovereignty, which is his by right, comes as a complete surprise, for God in Christ literally assumes

the role of the servant, the house slave (John 13:1-20). Christ's kingship does not stand on its dignity or prerogatives, but always seeks the well-being of others. Saint Peter declares that the Word became flesh that we could be made "*partakers of the divine nature*", while Saint Athanasius and Saint Thomas Aquinas use even stronger language: the former writing: "*for the Son of God became man so that we might become God*" and the latter: "*the only-begotten Son of God wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods*". Here is a sovereignty in which everyone is invited to participate. God bends down in order to raise his creatures up into himself.

A perfect expression of Christ's Kingship is demonstrated in his cure of the Woman with the haemorrhage (Matthew 5:25-34). Jesus quite literally allows strength to flow out from his own body to provide healing and new life – even the lightest of touches ("*aware that power had gone out of him*") cost him something. It is easy to see why devotion to Christ as King has a Eucharistic dimension as, in every Mass, he offers the totality of his being to the believer. "*Just as Jesus was at the disposal of the woman's faith, so his power is at the disposal of believers in the Eucharist. If the power of Christ pours into a person who genuinely believes, by 'losing power', Christ wins that person for himself*" (Hans Urs Von Balthasar). "*Viva Cristo Rey!*".

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

In addition to the Sunday 10.30am Solemn Mass which can be viewed on our YouTube channel, we are now streaming the 6pm said Mass each evening Monday to Saturday (using the same YouTube address)

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.

Copies of a Novena to **Carlo Acutis** (the recently beatified 15 year old) can be found at the back of church – let's seek his intercession and, hopefully, speed his canonisation as a role model for our teenagers.

The annual appeal for the **SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS** fund of the Westminster Archdiocese has raised **£1705**, so far. If you would still like to donate either put a contribution in one of the envelopes that the back of church and post it through the rectory door or you can give directly online at:- <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/sick-and-retiredpriests-fund/> do make sure that the Diocese knows your gift is from Spanish Place!.

A letter from Cardinal Nichols in response to the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (**IICSA**) will be found on the parish website.