

The international Eucharistic Congress which should have been held in Hungary last year will take place in September (in a truncated form). Because many of those who would have hoped to travel to Budapest will not be able to do so there is to be a **EUCCHARISTIC OCTAVE** celebrated at Corpus Christi church, Maiden Lane (13th-18th September) culminating in a Eucharistic Procession on Sunday (19th September) which will begin at the Assumption, Warwick Street and come via Farm Street and the Ukrainian Cathedral finishing with Solemn Benediction here in Spanish Place. There are handbills at the back of church with full details, dates etc.

Work among ***the homeless and needy*** is now back on track: the Order of Malta on Mondays and Thursdays and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on Tuesdays and Fridays. SVP is hoping to purchase a small van to facilitate its outreach work and they are also asking for volunteers to make sandwiches on Tuesdays and Fridays (in the social centre under the church) from 5.30pm. Offers of help to the parish office,

Many will remember **Elizabeth Sherrier** as a regular member of the congregation (a daily communicant): she died recently in a nursing home in Eastbourne aged 94. **RIP**

A new way to give

Since installing the 3 "***digital collection plates***" over £14,000 has been given using this method. They can be used to make donations of any amount using contact-less or chip and pin (*and directed to specific areas of choice*).

The provider suggests those who intend to use the facility regularly **should go online in advance** to **DONA** and register their chosen card (*they will also be given the option to complete a Gift Aid declaration*).



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 or use the bank details set out below:-

HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY

Sort code: 40-05-20 Acc no: 91094394 WRCDT Spanish Place

Hymn from the Armenian liturgy for the Transfiguration:

Glory to thee, spiritual Light,
who in thy transfiguration on
the mountain didst show the
power of thy Godhead.
Christ our God, grant that
with Peter and the sons of
Zebedee we may be found
worthy to gaze on the vision
of thy Godhead. Lead us
onward from the earthly
mountain to thy spiritual
dwelling, high above the
heavens. Blessings on thee,
Lord, one in essence with the
Father, blessings on thee,
Saviour of the world.

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



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st August 2021

[online] Click [link](#) for streamed events.
Readings can be found at [Universalis](#)

Latin texts for the 10.30am Mass can be found
on pages 61/62 of the Parish Mass Book

Music at 10.30am

Missa Qual'è più
grande o amore
Rota

Sicut cervus
Palestrina

Sitivit anima mea
Palestrina

Praeludium in D
(BuxWV 139)
Buxtehude

TODAY'S LITURGY

Exodus 16:2-4,12-15

*I will rain down bread for you
from the heavens.*

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Ephesians 4:17,20-24

*Put on the new self
that has been created in God's way.*

St John 6:24-35

*He who comes to me will never be hungry,
he who believes in me will never thirst.*

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

“*We had seen his majesty for ourselves*”: that is the claim made by Saint Peter (2 Peter 1:16) and it emphasises the apostolic witness to the true and full identity of the One who had called them to follow him. In their initial encounter with Jesus, the first disciples knew only that a Stranger had made such an impression on them that they had felt compelled to leave home, work and security in order to be in his company. They could not explain the attraction, but they sensed that their future was bound up with this Carpenter from Nazareth. When Pope Saint John Paul II added the “*Mysteries of Light*” to the recitation of the rosary, he placed the Transfiguration among them. What we celebrate this week (on Friday, 6th August) is, indeed, a profound mystery filled with light. The humanity of Jesus is suffused with divine glory, and, as if that were not enough, those present see their Lord conversing with the two archetypal figures of the Old Covenant, Moses the Law-giver and Elijah the father of prophecy. Peter, James and John would have been well-versed in the Scriptures and they would have made immediate connections with the vision of Daniel: “*I gazed into the visions of the night, and I saw coming on the clouds of heaven one like a son of man. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship*”.

For these three ordinary fishermen it must have been a mind-blowing experience. Moses had knelt before a burning bush, Elijah had been hidden behind rocks as God passed by, but here these disciples are witnessing at first hand the voice and the glory of the Divinity. No wonder that “*the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear*” (Matthew 17:6). But what is the significance of the Transfiguration? On the face of it, Jesus’ revelation in the glory of his divinity seems to contradict the concealment which goes to the heart of the Incarnation. The Eternal Word having assumed human identity, never seems to have spoken in other than ambiguous terms about his place within the Godhead but here on the top of a mountain there is no room for doubt. The Voice speaks unequivocally from within the cloud: “*this is my Son, the Beloved: he enjoys my favour*”. The traditional explanation is that the Transfiguration looks forward to the passion and subsequent glorification of Jesus in his resurrection. What the disciples witness fleetingly here they will recognise again on Easter Day and the vision on the mountain is allowed to console them through all that must happen in the coming, testing days.

There might well be, though, another message being offered which is not just about reassurance for those about to have their share in Christ’s rejection and suffering. A clue is given in the two figures who appear alongside Jesus, Moses and Elijah. For the Hebrew Bible the war against evil is personified in these two great figures who struggled one against Pharaoh and the Egyptians and the other against Jezebel and the gods of Canaan. For those with the eyes to see and the ears to hear, the effective

sign language of the Transfiguration is that these are the final days and that the universal confrontation with Satan and the forces of evil, with sin and with death, is moving inexorably towards its climax. What happened in front of Peter, James and John is the beginning of the last act in the drama by which the Father takes back the initiative and his Kingdom is established in the death and resurrection of his Son. In this light, the Transfiguration is not just a foretaste of Easter but of the Second Coming, the Last Day and the Final Judgment.

The Dominican writer, Aidan Nichols, says this: “*Jesus’s Transfiguration may be described as the foundation of all Christian theology. For theology begins with the flooding of the mind by the uncreated light and the concentration of the heart on the person of the Saviour. We cannot create this foundation: rather, we live within it, resting upon it. So this feast is one in which to exult, filled as it is with the beauty, love and joy of God now within our reach in Christ, our friend and brother. The Transfiguration is the sign of our humanity on the way to final redemption in God, the dawn of a history of joy in the midst of the unanswered suffering of the world*”. That really is something to rejoice about!

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

A warm and heart-felt “*thank you*” to all those who worked so hard to make the weekend of Saint James’s Day such a happy time. The music was (as ever) sublime and it was a privilege to have Cardinal Nichols with us – the first parochial visit anywhere he has been able to make since March of last year. It was good to have the Spanish Deputy Head of Mission with us (in the absence of the new Ambassador who has yet to take up his post) and a chance to renew our links with Spain which go back nearly three hundred years.

Work begins this Monday on the refurbishment of the Golden Lady: fingers crossed, it is hoped for completion before the celebration of the ***ASSUMPTION*** on Sunday 15th August. *To mark Our Lady’s heavenly birthday we plan to have a drinks party in the courtyard outside the social centre after 10.30am Mass – to which everyone is invited.*

We are hoping to re-open the ***Repository*** in the near future. For the present it will be housed in the Memorial Chapel and we are looking for volunteers not just for the sale of candles, cards and articles of devotion but to act as a focus of welcome for our many visitors. From the experience of those who gave generously of their time as stewards during lockdown, we have learned how valuable it is to have a friendly face around willing to answer basic questions. Offers of help to the parish office.