

Paul Sutherland's funeral is arranged for Friday 16th April here at a 10am Mass (which will be live streamed) before burial in Brompton Cemetery. His body will lie in church overnight. As numbers are still limited, it would help if you were to inform the parish office should you want to attend. **RIP**

The **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** needs volunteers to help in its work with the poor and needy who would be able to make a generous commitment in time. Those able to drive, good organisers and fund-raisers would be especially welcome. Please make contact with the parish office to find out more.

Our redesigned [Website](http://sjrcc.org.uk) is now online. Do look it up: sjrcc.org.uk

The Friends of the Holy Land is a charity giving hope to vulnerable Christians in the Middle East. For information look up: friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

An Easter Prayer: "Lord, keep those you have ransomed by the shedding of your blood, at peace with you. Remove all cause of stumbling from the path of those for whom you hung upon the cross. Make those whom you by grace have adopted as your brothers and sisters, worthy of your love. And may all who celebrate the triumph of your resurrection rise on the last judgement-day, to be placed among your own flock, and to receive a crown of glory from your hand".



There is now a new way to contribute.

Three "digital collection plates" will be found in the church. They can be used to make donations using contactless or chip and pin (and directed to specific areas of your choice). We are finally catching up with our technology! The provider suggests those who intend to use the facility regularly should go online to DONA and register their card (they will also have the opportunity to complete a Gift Aid declaration).

New sets of **Weekly Offering Envelopes** are available at the back of church. If you cannot find a set in your name or would like to begin to give in this simple, regular way, please contact the parish office. 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 as set out below:-

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

St James's Roman Catholic Church - Spanish Place -

22 George Street, London W1U 3QY

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 11th April 2021



We continue to stream a Solemn Mass with the choir each Sunday at 10.30am. In addition, the 6pm Mass (Monday-Saturday) is also streamed. So too is the Holy Hour on Saturday (4.45-5.45pm). The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamessSpanishPlace>

TODAY'S LITURGY

Acts 4:32-35

United, heart and soul

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.**

I John 5:1-6

*Anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world.*

St John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came.

**Music at
10.30am**

Missa Fac bonum
Rathgeber

Regina caeli
Mozart

Post dies octo
Guerrero

Concerto in G
(BWV 593) Bach

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

In his Easter blessing (given once again in an empty Saint Peter's Square) Pope Francis said: *"may those who suffer take refuge in the wounds of Christ and through them receive the hope which does not disappoint"*. The Holy Father continued with the reminder that the first witnesses to the resurrection: *"report an important detail: the risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us"*. The Gospels do not provide a satisfactory answer as to why Judas Iscariot would have betrayed Jesus. We can only surmise, but perhaps the most plausible explanation is that this disciple who had been with Jesus from the outset had become increasingly disillusioned and disappointed. He had looked for a moral and political crusade to free Israel from the occupying power and restore national pride and integrity. In every piece of dialogue with his disciples as with the crowds, Jesus would only portray himself in the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy as the Suffering Servant. Where he wanted to find strength Judas could only sense vulnerability

Saint Luke records the onlookers to the crucifixion as jeering at Jesus: *"he saved others, let him save himself is he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One"*. If Judas had not in all probability hanged himself already, these could have been his sentiments too. Is it any wonder that (as Saint Paul notes in writing to the Corinthians) human and divine logic do not always coincide. The images we build for ourselves of the majesty and power of the Godhead are confounded by the juxtaposition of the Child lying in Mary's arms after his birth, and that same Child having grown to maturity lying dead in those same arms. We want a God who will sift out the wheat from the chaff, punish the wrong doer and reward the virtuous and, like Judas, we are constantly surprised and shocked by the apparent divine passivity. We expect a crown and we are offered a cross. Human free will in all its consequences is respected even to the ultimate moment when the Christ of God is rejected and tortured to death. *"Thus Calvary shows us what God is like"*.

In all the accounts of Jesus's post-Easter appearances perhaps the easiest for us to identify with is that to Saint Thomas. For some unexplained reason he was not with the others when Jesus first appeared to the disciples as a group and Thomas just could not accept their testimony. He had seen death – he knew its irreversibility. Grief must have turned his friends' minds: they were seeing what they wanted to see, imagining what they so desperately wanted to imagine. *"Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe"*. A week later that was Thomas's exact experience. In the radiance of Jesus's presence doubt turns

into conviction. *"My Lord and my God"*: the act of faith echoes down through the centuries. What hit Thomas so forcefully was the substantial reality that confronted him. He could not explain, but he could no longer deny. This was the same bodily reality he had known from the previous three years. Jesus spoke to him, invited his touch, wanted to eat and drink with him. *"The resurrection tells us that something has happened so world-shaking that from now on everything else we know about reality must be related to this, not the other way round"*.

In encountering the glorified reality of Jesus, Thomas saw a body still wounded by the suffering which had been imposed on it during the horrors of Good Friday. Yes, the power of the grave had been broken once and for all, but the cost involved is destined never to be eradicated and the marks in the flesh of Jesus remain eternally part of the Godhead. Pope Francis's Easter message continued: *"all those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint"*. Saint Paul once heard Jesus say to him: *"my power is at its best in weakness"*. It was a message too ambiguous for Judas Iscariot to accept but it continues to take us to the heart of the Paschal Mystery. *"In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our suffering, and now we pray that the benefit of that healing will spread throughout the world"* (Pope Francis).

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

A very warm and sincere *"thank you"* to those who worked so hard to help the rest of us celebrate Easter in restricted circumstances. We are grateful to Chris. Daly for his work in the sacristy and continue to be delighted by the breadth and quality of the music which complements the liturgy week by week, but most especially during the Triduum and Easter Day this year. We want Iestyn Evans, Edward Tambling and the others who make our music to know our appreciation for all their efforts. Several people have shown great financial generosity over Easter: while respecting their anonymity, we want each of them to know how much their kindness means to the parish.

As part of a slow process of **normalisation, the Sunday 10.30am Solemn Mass is now being celebrated publicly again**. If all goes according to plan it is the intention to celebrate Masses once more at 8am and 9am on Sundays from the beginning of May. We hope to restore the 7.15am daily Mass when restrictions are lifted in June – until then, whenever the church is open there should be a steward present. We are very grateful to those giving their time so generously to enable the church to remain open every day.

At present, the confessionals in church are not being used for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** but please feel free to ring at the rectory door and ask for a priest to hear your confession in the house parlour.