

the arena

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newsletter

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ST JAMES' DAY/
AUGUST 2021

Dear All,

Hopefully Arena96 will reach you just before the great summer exodus from Islington! I know lots of people are trying to get away: two families from St James' actually met at the airport, catching the same plane to Greece!



Sadly the Covid situation is very fluid: plans for weddings/wedding blessings at St James' are already coming unstuck and we are very aware that the so-called 'Freedom Day' needs to be treated with a huge amount of caution. As you will see if you come into Church, the wording on the board as you come in has been updated and the appeal to wear a mask has been reinforced. While the taping of the pews has been removed (the strips were falling off anyway) we do hope people will observe the 'alternate' pew arrangement for some time longer.

THE GOOD NEWS is that we are allowed to resume singing as from 25th July! This is also St James' Day so we will really enjoy being able to have live music at the 10am Mass on our Patronal Festival after eighteen months!

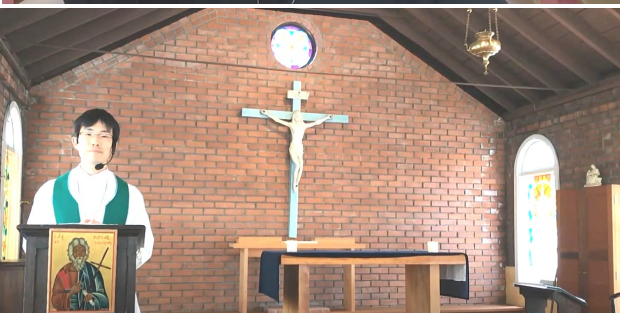


New too is permission to receive communion in both kinds. However for the time being we will invite you to dip the eucharistic bread into the chalice (intinction) to prevent any spread of the virus. *Please feel free to just receive the Eucharistic bread if you are in any way concerned about infection.* Finally it will also be possible to offer refreshments after Mass albeit in a rather more limited way than normal. Thank you to Rosemary for being the first to 'boil the kettle' after Mass on the 25th!



FRIENDS ABROAD On July 4th we kept International Church Links Day, building on the relationship we have been quietly building over this last year with two churches abroad.

Using recorded material sent from Grace Church, Alvin in Texas and from St Andrew's Church, Matsuyama in the Diocese of Kobe in Japan, it was amazing just how good the quality of pictures and sound proved to be so that Mother Nan was able to preach and Fr Sebastian was could lead our prayers 'as if they were here'!



The mainstay of the relationship is the sharing of Noon Day prayers with Grace (which for us is at 6pm!) each Wednesday. Both Isabel and I take part and we sometimes lead the short reflection. If you would like to join us the zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84947038328?pwd=ZDVvMmlUNENtSjYzaHJZWkxGalF5UT09>



FR JIM Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to welcome Fr Jim Walters to St James'. Jim is chaplain at the London School of Economics and has recently moved to Barnsbury. When he is not otherwise engaged in preaching at St Albans Abbey or Chichester Cathedral where he is a Canon, he thinks he might wander down to us on Sundays.

This is great news. Best of all (at least for me!) Jim is also willing to cover the 10am Mass for the odd times when I am away from the parish. The first occasion when he will preside is on Sunday 1st August which will allow Maria and I to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary with the family in Yorkshire that day. We are sure you will thoroughly enjoy hearing him.

We are also glad that Fr Stephen will also continue to be part of the Church family here and will cover the 8am Masses and any weekday Masses that fall while I am away.

**LAMBE'S
FEAST**

**September
19th 2021**



LAMBE'S FEAST 2021 Unless there is a sudden Covid spike that makes it impossible, we are very much looking forward to welcoming the Church - and wider community - to an outdoor lunch to celebrate our great benefactor, William Lambe. The special 450th Anniversary Mass on Sunday 19th will include music by the Corvus Consort and the preacher will be the Sub Dean of Southwark Cathedral, Michael Rawson.

BUT WE NOW NEED TO START ASKING EVERYONE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY WILL BRING TO EAT! This will be a 'Faith Lunch' so whatever is brought is what we will be able to enjoy!

As part of our *TIME TO DREAM* process we will be in touch with each family directly but please do mark the date and help us to have a really good celebration.

FORWARD DATES

July

Sunday 25th **ST JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL** Masses at 8am and 10am.

August

Sunday 1st **TRINITY 9** Mass at 8am (Fr Stephen Taylor). 10am **PARISH MASS** - but **NO** Sunday School as the Burniston family are in Yorkshire (Fr Jim Walters)
Friday 6th Rhidian Jones records the organ at St James' before the refurbishment begins.
Saturday 7th 12noon Baptism of Gabriella-Grace Lapido.

Sunday 8th **TRINITY 10** Masses at 8am and 10am.

Wednesday 11th *11am Paul Mortier arrives from MPOS in Swindon to dismantle the organ pipework*

Sunday 15 **OF THE BVM** Masses at 8am and 10am.

Sunday 22nd **TRINITY 12** Masses at 8am and 10am.

Monday 23rd 10am Organ Loft cleared of residual rubbish

Friday 27th 3pm Wedding of Lebby Anafu and Sarah Ansah

Saturday 28th 2pm Memorial service for Jean Killeen

Sunday 29th **TRINITY 13** Masses at 8am and at 10am, to include the Baptism of Callum Kinch. 12noon Baptism of Alfie Kennedy.

Tuesday 31st **Proms Fringe Art Exhibition** opens.

Donation to St James



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Please keep in touch.

John