



*THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND ST GREGORY,
WARWICK STREET, LONDON W1F 9JR*

Dear Members of The Anglo-Portuguese Society,

RE: VISIT BY PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR, H.E. MANUEL LOBO ANTUNES TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND ST GREGORY, WARWICK STREET, SUNDAY, 3rd JUNE, 2018 FOR 10.30 SOLEMN MASS – THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

It is with great pleasure that I write to advise that we will be welcoming the Portuguese Ambassador to Warwick Street church on the above date for the Solemn Mass which has become rather a fixture in our calendar. As in the past, the Mass will mark the opening to a week of festivities that occur either side of Portugal's National Day on 10th June.

We would be delighted if you could join us on the occasion along with representatives of Portuguese associations and enterprises, Portuguese nationals residing in the UK and UK citizens with an interest in Portugal.

We cannot emphasize enough the historical links between Portugal and Warwick Street, in that the presbytery and church are on the site of what was the Portuguese Embassy and Chapel until 1747, when the then Ambassador, the Marques de Pombal, concluded his tour of duty.

The chapel and embassy site in London were subsequently leased on to the Bavarian Ambassador, but were sadly, extensively damaged during the Gordon riots of 1780. The church was rebuilt and reordered at various stages and, in 1850, became part of the newly established Diocese of Westminster. In 2013, the Warwick Street church and plant were given into the care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham as well as continuing to serve as a Parish of the Diocese.

The last 12 months have been very busy at the church and the activity continues to include Portugal-related events. In particular, we should mention the very successful concert tour of Portugal undertaken by the Anglo Portuguese Ensemble in 2017 and we are glad to advise that the Ensemble will be performing at Warwick Street again on Saturday 9th June to mark Portugal Day on the 10th. Please diary this date as well as the concert promises, as always, to be truly wonderful.

Feel welcome to pass this information on to your colleagues. We would be grateful if you could advise whether or not you will be attending the Mass as in previous years we will be offering refreshments afterwards, this year, courtesy of The Anglo-Portuguese Society.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 3rd June and again on Friday 9th June.

With thanks and blessings.

Sincerely,

Fr Mark Elliott-Smith (Priest-in-Charge)
15th April, 2018

R.S.V.P diana.morphew@gmail.com or 8341 9127
POSTAL ADDRESS: 24 Golden Square, London W1F9JR