

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
13th June 2021

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Chris Pedley SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Fr Adrian Porter SJ; Fr Laco Sulik SJ

PARISH STAFF

George McCombe, Parish Secretary
Email: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 07561 611 248

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer
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Kevin De Souza, Sacristan
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Sebastian Cichocki, Maintenance
Email: scichocki@jesuit.org.uk

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada, farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

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E-MAIL: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.farmstreet.org.uk

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 8am, 1.05pm, & 6pm

Saturday: 8am & 6pm

Sunday: 8am, 9.30am (Family), 11am (Latin), 12.30pm,
5.30pm, & 7pm (Young Adult, 18-35)

The dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect until further notice. All Masses can be viewed on our livestreaming page

<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday: 12 noon to 1pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday to Friday: 12 noon - 1pm

Saturday: 10am to 12 noon; 5.45pm – 6pm

Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment. Dates are subject to lockdown developments.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE

All events are suspended until further notice. For more information, contact Anne Paolino at apaolino@jesuit.org.uk

Sunday Homilies & Articles Weekly newsletter articles are uploaded to our website on a weekly basis. They can be viewed at <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/weekly-articles>. Our website also contains an archive of previous Sunday homilies.

Social Media

Farm Street Church has an active presence on social media and we regularly update our Twitter account and Facebook page with information relating to the parish and the wider Catholic community.

THE MUSTARD SEED

In his parables Jesus used images with which his hearers would be familiar. They lived in a largely agrarian society. They were used to seeing shepherds with their sheep, they were used to the presence of goats, they knew about vineyards and about the cycle of sowing and harvest. There are photographs around, from before the First World War, of a flock sheep being driven down The Strand. When the Religious of the Assumption first set up their college in Kensington Square it included a farm. Farm Street itself is named after Hay Hill Farm which occupied this area until the Seventeenth Century and where the "May Fair" was held. However, we in central London are now along way from such agricultural roots. We no longer see sheep or cows in streets and we do not have wheat or grapes growing in Hyde Park. We in modern Mayfair are rather more distant from the images used by Jesus. However, we can still understand the images Jesus uses today to talk about the Kingdom of God. We can still see something beautiful in the growth from a small seed to a shrub in which the birds can shelter, even if our experience of such things is only in a park or a window box. Jesus talks about the farmer sowing the seed and waiting till it produces its harvest, without effort of his own. Even if modern farming is not quite like that, we can still appreciate the wonderful processes of nature. The two parables tell us that this same wonder is present in the way God works with us. We just need to have patience. God's purpose will be fulfilled even if, at the moment, we cannot see how. It may take time, it may take longer than our life time. Indeed, the primary focus of the parables is on God's triumph at the end of time. We can easily lose heart when we do not see results, when things do not work out the way we might have hoped. We can see the things that are wrong in our world and wonder whether God is really at work. However, we are called to patience and trust. God's timetable is not necessarily our own. God can take something very small, like the mustard seed and turn it into something "greater than we can ask or imagine".

There is one other message from today's parables, especially the one about the farmer. He is not the one who produces the growth. He makes his contribution in sowing the seed, seed which itself is God's gift. God is the one who produces the growth. We are not expected to do it on our own and, indeed, we are quite incapable of doing so. That can often be a painful lesson to learn and many of us have to learn it time and time again. It is God who brings good out of our little contribution.

We can still appreciate the parables today. However, if we are tempted to lack in trust and patience it can help to go back and see God at work in nature. Go into a garden or park, somewhere there is life. Do not go just to exercise or even just to sunbathe, go to look. Notice how things change and grow, notice the cycle of life. Let it touch your heart and teach you those lessons of patience and trust that all things do come to their fulfilment in God, in God's own time.

Fr Chris Pedley SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: Feria
Tue: Feria
Wed: Feria; St Richard of Chichester, Bishop
Thu: Feria
Fri: Feria
Sat: Feria; St Romuald, Abbot; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
Sun: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Ezekiel 17:22-24; II Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34
Mon: II Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42
Tue: II Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48
Wed: II Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-18
Thu: II Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Fri: II Corinthians 11:18-30; Matthew 6:19-23
Sat: II Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:24-34
Sun: Job 38:1-11; II Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

Have you been away from the Church and seeking a way back to your faith?

Landings, the programme for returning Catholics, is run by regular Church goers and those who themselves have returned after doing the Landings programme. Through a series of storytelling, discussion topics, and prayers returnees are able to have their voices heard through compassionate listening in a confidential space where trust and hospitality are integral. We know that many have been away from the Church for a while and there is a great yearning to reconnect with their faith, especially after the past year of lockdown and the ensuing isolation. If you, or anyone you know is considering reconnecting with their faith then do please email Fr. Dominic Robinson at landingsuk@gmail.com or Ruby Almeida at landingsouth@gmail.com

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of June, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for those preparing to marry. Let us pray especially for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness, and patience.

Mass intention

If you would like a Mass to be celebrated for a specific intention, please contact the Parish Secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

Ordination to the Diaconate

We are delighted to announce that the ordination to the diaconate of our Jesuit scholastic, **Xavier de Bénazé**, will be taking place in **Farm Street Church on Saturday, 3rd July at 12 noon**. Xavier, a student of theology and ecology, has been attending Mass in our church for the past six months and introduced himself at all masses some weeks ago. Farm Street parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Sadly, Xavier's family and many of his Jesuit brothers in France will not be able to attend because of travelling restrictions now in place but they will be participating via livestream! Please e-mail the parish secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk if you can come.

Scripture Speaks

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace."*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

11am Music list for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Organ Benedictus - Reger

Introit Cantate Domino - Hassler

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: be telling of his salvation from day to day. Declare his honour unto the heathen: and his wonders unto all people.

Kyrie & Gloria said

Alleluia Domine, in virtute tua laetabitur rex: et super salutare tuum exsultabit vehementer.

The King shall rejoice in your strength, O Lord, and in your salvation shall he be exceedingly joyful.

Offertory Locus iste - Bruckner

This place is the work of God, a mystery surpassing all comprehension, above all reproach.

Sanctus & Benedictus Missa Orbis factor

Agnus Dei Missa Orbis factor

Communion Adoro te devote - Rheinberger

Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour, thee, who in Thy sacrament dost deign to be; Both flesh and spirit at Thy presence fail, et here Thy presence we devoutly hail.

Tantum ergo - Lemmens

Down in adoration falling, Lo! the sacred Host we hail, Lo! oe'r ancient forms departing newer rites of grace prevail; faith for all defects supplying, where the feeble senses fail.

To the everlasting Father, and the Son Who reigns on high with the Holy Spirit proceeding orth from each eternally, e salvation, honour, blessing, might and endless majesty

Organ Prelude in B-minor - JS Bach

Day for Life

The following message is from Bishop John Sherrington, auxiliary bishop of Westminster, about the Day for Life next weekend. There will be a retiring collection for the Day for Life in the church next Sunday.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to inform you about the Day for Life which is to be held during the weekend of 19th / 20th June 2021. This day, inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists prolife organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach. These funds are distributed by the Department of Social Justice of the Bishops' Conference.

The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

This year's theme for 'Day for Life' focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

'Day for Life' adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in supporting our work. In 2020,

we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. 'Day for Life' is a simple practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.'

I know that it is difficult to take another second collection at this time, but the funds are important to support charities and projects which protect the good of life. The Day for Life website is <https://www.dayforlife.org/>. Thank you. With every good wish

In prayer,
+John

How to have a Happy Death

How do hospices care for people living with a life-limiting condition? What can we learn from this care for a loved one at home? What about hospitals? What about good end of life care for people with a learning disability? Come and join the online roundtable discussion on Thursday 17th June at 7pm with Professor Julia Riley, Bishop John Sherrington, Sr Rita Dawson MBE, and Edward McGuigan.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-have-a-happy-death-tickets-151066374593>

Scripture Speaks

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 6:10-12

Face Covering Update

'Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass [or for private prayer] as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet.' (Statement issued by the Bishops' Conference).

Community Sponsorship of Refugees

Monday 14th June 2021 at 6:00pm.

The government has recently announced the long-term future for Community Sponsorship of refugees – a national scheme co-designed and piloted by Catholic parishes. All are invited to join a national Catholic celebration of the scheme via Zoom co-hosted by Caritas Social Action (CSAN) and Reset.

Caritas Westminster is lead sponsor for two groups in the diocese.

Find out how you can get involved and hear from refugees and parishes about its transformative impact.

To register

visit: www.communitysponsorship.org.uk/events

For further information on the event please do contact CSAN via: sean.ryan@csan.org.uk

Diocese of Westminster Network Quarterly Meeting for all who welcome Refugees and Migrants

Tuesday 22nd June 2021

2:00pm-3:30pm

An opportunity for people from parishes and schools who seek to welcome and empower migrants and refugees, to meet together, share best practice and ideas, receive training and agree main advocacy issues. The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) will present their new Report: Being Human in the Asylum System. This has been written, using the principles Catholic Social Teaching, in response to the government's recent (very short) consultation on their New Plan for Immigration, and in anticipation of new legislation being put through parliament

Register on Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocese-of-westminster-quarterly-meeting-of-refugee-and-migrant-projects-tickets-151942007635>

London Jesuit Centre

The London Jesuit Centre is a place for the teaching and discussion of theology, the study and practice of the spiritual life, and engagement with issues of social and environmental justice, for the greater glory of God and the common good. It offers a programme of events, courses, and retreats. It is also a centre for individual spiritual direction and training and professional development in spiritual accompaniment. All are welcome to participate in the London Jesuit Centre programme. For more information, please visit <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/>. To sign up to their regular email to receive news, event listings, and exciting ways how you can get involved, please visit <https://londonjesuitcentre.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ba5b3aa1bbd112142962fd5fd&id=ce6d0b5750>

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

The Companions of the Order of Malta's Donation hub is looking for donations for the 600 - 800 homeless supported in the hotels.

Hub address: St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR.

Items required: Men's and women's clothes and shoes (not children's clothes please)

Toiletries – unopened please

Entertainment items e.g. books/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items (No Recipe books please)

Please see the times for dropping off donations:

Tuesday 1.30 -4pm & 6.30 -7.30pm (by arrangement);

Wednesday 2 – 4pm; Saturday 10 – 11am

Please contact Kate MacKenzie on companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk if you would like to deliver some donations. Please do not leave them at the church.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, I believe you are present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You and draw closer to You. Since I cannot receive Your body and blood sacramentally at this time, come to me spiritually. Help me to embrace You more deeply and unite myself more wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from Your love. Amen

Supporting the Parish

We continue to be grateful to everyone who has financially supported the church during the year of disruption caused by the pandemic. We are mindful that many people are struggling financially and may not be able to donate as they once did. If you can donate to the work of the parish, we would ask that you consider doing so in a way that avoids physical cash. Please consider donating via our website, setting up a standing order, or donating via the cashless terminals in the church. We are also implementing a new donating system called Givt, which will allow contactless donations via mobile phones. If you would like to donate via standing order, please contact the parish Finance Officer at farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you again for your support.