

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
5th September 2021

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Nicholas King SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Fr Laco Sulik SJ; Fr Michael Bossy SJ

PARISH STAFF

George McCombe, Parish Secretary
Email: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer
Email: farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk

David Graham, Director of Music
Email: farmstreetmusic@gmail.com

Leninha Assis, Catechist
Email: farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

Kevin De Souza, Sacristan
Email: farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk

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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TELEPHONE: 020 7493 7811
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.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE

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.

ANGELUS ADDRESS

The Gospel today (Mk 7:31-37) recounts Jesus' healing of a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, an incredible event that shows how Jesus reestablishes the full communication of man with God and with other people. The miracle is set in the region of the Decapolis, that is, in a completely pagan territory; thus, this deaf man who is brought before Jesus becomes the symbol of an unbeliever who completes a journey to faith. In effect, his deafness expresses the inability to hear and to understand, not just the words of man, but also the Word of God. And St Paul reminds us that "faith comes from what is heard" (Rom 10:17).

The first thing that Jesus does is take this man *far from the crowd*: He doesn't want to publicize this deed he intends to carry out, but he also doesn't want his word to be lost in the din of voices and the chatter of those around. The Word of God that Christ brings us needs silence to be welcomed as the Word that heals, that reconciles and reestablishes communication.

Then we are told about two gestures Jesus makes. He *touches the ears and the tongue* of the deaf man. To reestablish a relationship with this man whose communication is "impeded", he first seeks to reestablish contact. But the miracle is a gift that comes from on high, which Jesus implores from the Father. That's why he *raises his eyes to the heavens and orders, "Be opened"*. And the ears of the deaf man are opened, the knot of his tongue is untied and he begins to speak correctly (cf. v. 35).

The lesson we can take from this episode is that God is not closed in on himself, but instead he *opens himself and places himself in communication* with humanity. In his immense mercy, he overcomes the abyss of the infinite difference between him and us, and comes to meet us. To bring about this communication with man, God becomes man. It is not enough for him to speak to us through the law and the prophets, but instead he makes himself present in the person of his Son, the Word made flesh. Jesus is the great "bridge-builder" who builds in himself the great bridge of full communion with the Father.

But this Gospel speaks to us also about ourselves: Often we are drawn up and closed in on ourselves, and we create many inaccessible and inhospitable islands. Even the most basic human relationships can sometimes create realities incapable of reciprocal openness: the couple closed in, the family closed in,

the group closed in, the parish closed in, the country closed in. And this is not from God! This is from us. This is our sin.

However, at the beginning of our Christian life, at baptism, it is precisely this gesture and word of Jesus that are present: "*Ephphatha!*" "Be opened!". And behold the miracle has been worked. We are healed of the deafness of selfishness and the impediment of being closed in on ourselves, and of sin, and we have been inserted into the great family of the Church. We can hear God who speaks to us and communicates his Word to those who have never before heard it, or to the one who has forgotten it and buried it in the thorns of the anxieties and the traps of the world.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, a woman of listening and of joyful testimony, that she sustain us in the commitment to profess our faith and to communicate the wonders of the Lord to those we find along our way.

Pope Francis

Delivered on Sunday the 6th September 2015.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: Feria
Tue: Feria
Wed: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thu: St Peter Claver, Priest
Fri: Feria
Sat: Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
Sun: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Isaiah 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37
Mon: Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11
Tue: Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19
Wed: Micah 5:1-4; Matthew 1:1-23
Thu: Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38
Fri: I Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 6:39-42
Sat: I Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49
Sun: Isaiah 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of September, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. Let us pray that we will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The March for Life will take place this year in London on **Saturday 4th September**. The March for Life is the largest pro-life march in the UK, and it provides a necessary opportunity to speak up for the value and sanctity of life from the moment of conception. There will be events from 10am to 1pm in the Emmanuel Centre. The march itself will begin outside the Emmanuel Centre at 1.30pm, concluding with speeches in Parliament Square. The recent efforts to entirely decriminalize abortion, combined with an increasing number of local authorities prohibiting pro-life witness, means that it is more important than ever for people to come together and speak up in defence of the unborn. For more information, visit <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>

WELCOME

We welcome Fr Nicholas King SJ to Farm Street Church as a full-time member of the parish clergy team. If you see Fr Nick in the church, please do introduce yourself to him.

Creation Sunday

Sunday 5th September is Creation Sunday. To mark this occasion, we invite you to join with us in celebrating a short ecumenical service of prayer with our Anglican friends from the Grosvenor Chapel. This will be at 10.45am at the palm tree in Mount Street Gardens. We will then separate, and Mass will be celebrated as normal at 11am.

Comings and Goings

As we move into September it's time for some of our Jesuit team to be on the move. After so many years of dutiful and fruitful service at Farm Street, Fr Chris Pedley departed on Wednesday for Preston where he will be parish priest at St Wilfrid's, the Jesuit church in the town. So many will want to thank Fr Chris for all he has done at Farm Street and we wish him the very best for his new assignment. Fr Nicholas King arrived to join the Parish Team on Friday. Also, on Wednesday Stephen Noon SJ took over as the director of the London Jesuit Centre from Fr Adrian Porter, who moves north on Sep 7th to be parish priest at Sacred Heart, Edinburgh. We thank Fr Porter for his contribution to the Parish and we welcome Stephen Noon.

Confirmations 2021

The next programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation (teens age 14+) begins at the end of **September 2021**. To register, please contact farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk by the 27th September 2021.

A Fond Farewell

So many of us love Farm Street: the prayerful beauty of the church, the care taken in its liturgy and preaching, the variety of celebrants, preachers and speakers, the quality of its music. There is also the welcome to regulars and visitors, the outreach to the homeless and those in need, and the concern for the Church throughout the world. All this describes our love, and I find it in my own memories of fifteen years as both parish priest and sort of grandfather of the parish until the last happy three years helping with the formation of Jesuit novices here in Birmingham. It has been a pleasure to come from Birmingham to sing the Latin Mass regularly each month until halted by Covid. It was a particular pleasure to return for the Latin Mass in June and meet so many old friends and to celebrate the long-awaited wedding of a daughter of dear friends in July. As I am now joining our community in Preston in September, I feel it is time to say a fond farewell.

But Preston isn't far, you say. In my ninetieth year I must recognize physical slowing down, although my mind remains fresh. I hope to help a little in our parish of St. Wilfrid's and be available for "supplies" if they are prepared to pick me up and bring me back.

A fond farewell to all whom I have been privileged to serve and whom I consider as dear friends. Greetings particularly to those couples I have married, those I have baptised and their families, those I have prepared and received into communion with the Catholic Church. My thanks to Father Dominic for inviting me to write this personal article and to Father Chris for his help down the years. You will all be in my prayers and my heart will leap up when I hear the words "Farm Street".

Fr Tony Nye SJ

Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are served in the Arrupe Hall after the Sunday 9.30am, 11am, and 5.30pm Masses (*refreshments after 5.30pm Mass on 2nd and 4th Sundays only*). All are welcome to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

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

Where Are You Going?

Farm Street Church is organising a week-long series of talks on the subject of living out your vocation. These talks will take place in the church from Monday 4th October to Friday 6th October, beginning at 6.30pm (immediately after the 6pm Mass) and lasting for about forty-five minutes, including a session of Q&A. Different speakers will reflect on different vocations. The schedule for the week will be:

Monday 4th October. The Single Life. Speakers: Hannah Vaughan-Spruce & Jack Valero
Tuesday 5th October. Married Life. Speakers: Brenden & Laura Thompson
Wednesday 6th October. Call to the Religious Life. Speakers: Fr Ladislav Sulik SJ & to be confirmed
Thursday 7th October. Life as a Lay Missionary, Deacon, and Priest. Speakers: Sarah Morgan, Deacon Adrian Cullen, and Fr Mark Walker.
Friday 8th October. Life in Community (New Movements). Speakers: Chemin Neuf and Sant'Egidio

The week will conclude with a buffet supper in the adjoining Arrupe Hall after the talk on Friday 8th October.

We hope this week will assist and inspire all those in attendance to live out their vocation, whatever it may be, to the fullest. All are most welcome to attend.

Landings Retreat

We all long for love and affirmation. Especially after COVID-19, we yearn for the intimacy of belonging. Landings welcomes Returning Catholics to their faith, and always has a welcome place for all who walk through our doors. So come and join the Landings family for its first retreat from the 15th to 17th October 2021 in the lovely surrounds of the Oblates Centre in Crewe. Places are limited. For information and booking details please email ruby at landingsouth@gmail.com

Catholic History Walks

6/9/21 6.00PM CITY, meet at the steps of St Paul's Cathedral EC4M 8AD. Ludgate, Ave Maria La, Smithfield and St Bartholomew's.
8/9/21 6.00PM CITY and TOWER, meet at English Martyrs Church E1 8BB.
10/9.21 6.30PM MAYFAIR, meet at Farm St W1K 3AH (the Church of the Immaculate Conception). St Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn, Ely Place.
Cost: £5 No need to book, simply come along. We look forward to seeing you there.
chwalkslondon@gmail.com 07495 205 568

Jesuit Missions Appeal

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September, Lynn McWilliams from Jesuit Missions will be visiting Farm Street Church to make their annual appeal. Jesuit Missions supports Jesuits and their partners who work with poor and marginalised people in Africa, Asia and Amazonia. A diverse range of projects, including environmental sustainability, skills training, women's empowerment, and education work to create a more just world. Lynn will also be sharing information about the Jesuit Missions COP26 Growing Our Future campaign and environmental justice for Creation Sunday. Learn more about our programmes and ways that you can get involved. Jesuit Missions Gift Aid envelopes will be available to complete. Jesuit Missions is part of the international Xavier Network. For more information see <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk>

CAFOD responding to multiple emergencies across the world

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

Living Laudato Si'

The Ecological Conversion Group is offering two weekends of talks and discussions via Zoom, and practical activities, on living the message of Laudato Si' in and through the parish. The first weekend will take place from **3rd to 6th September**, with **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** and Bishop Paul Swarbrick delivering a prayer and reflection at the opening and close of the weekend. The second will take place from 15th to 18th October with Bishop Alan Williams and Bishop Mark O'Toole. For more details, e-mail Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

Ursuline High School Open Events

We are delighted to invite prospective Year 6 students and one parent/carer to find out more about our school by joining our physical open events for September 2022 entry.

Physical Open Evening

Wednesday 15th September

Physical Open Mornings

Running from Monday 20th September – Friday 8th October

All events held at Ursuline High School, Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA

Sign up for free tickets via Eventbrite. Vis our website for further details.

<https://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/admissions/open-events-2021/>

Limited availability! No ticket, no entry.

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.

Face Covering Notice

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respect the safety of all, we request that you wear a face covering in the church, unless you are exempt from doing so. Thank you for your cooperation

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>

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