

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th 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
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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Parish Office

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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.

FOLLOWING THE LORD

51 years ago last Tuesday I found myself rather nervously entering the novitiate of the Society of Jesus; I felt that I should not be at all surprised if the Jesuits were to throw me out more or less then and there and I be back at home within days. So far it seems that they have not found me out. However I did indeed find myself back home inside a week, in the following entirely unexpected circumstances. September 14th, feast of the Holy Cross, took place in that year on a Monday; on the Thursday, my father had a serious heart attack, rushing for a train back to Bath, from which he died on the following Saturday. So it was that on that day, September 19th, and 51 years ago today, I found myself indeed back home with the family that I had left just five days earlier, with one important and central person painfully missing, and the rest of us in baffled disarray. I will not talk about the sadness, but it was there, and cast its shadows over many subsequent years. It was not that I lost belief in God or became uncertain about my calling; it was more that something of a pillar had gone from my life.

Much later, however, my novice-master said to me that “your father’s death was the making of your vocation”, and that certainly gave me pause for thought. One thing that did not occur to me until many years later was that when my father had a previous heart attack, ten years or so earlier, I was a boy of 12 or 13; and I must have taken it aboard that it was potentially mortal. For I remember praying at that time that he would live until I could look after the family; at that age, my presumption was that, as the eldest son, I should go into the family firm. And that was how I understood the idea of “looking after the family” at that age. As it turned out, however, it was my next brother down who entered the firm, for which he was ideally, brilliantly, suited; but, years later, as I say, as a religious and later a priest I was able to “look after the family” in entirely unexpected ways. So that prayer had been answered, and it was a long time before I realised it.

And what does this say to you, as you contemplate the readings that we are to hear on this coming Sunday? For my story is of no use unless it speaks to you of the God who is moving and calling in your life. The first thing that we are invited to notice is that if we follow the Lord, we are quite likely to encounter resistance and opposition. For the first reading is written for those (like us, perhaps?) who felt a bit culturally inferior in the brilliant civilisation that was Alexandria in Egypt; they are meant to be encouraged and given

hope that their Jewish (like our Christian) heritage had a great deal to offer, after all. Not only that, but we are allowed to eavesdrop on the opponents of the just, as they plot to “get” the virtuous man. When the early Christians read that passage, of course, they will have thought it was Christ to the life (and Death, of course).

The Letter of James, which has been teaching us so entertainingly in these last few weeks, is likewise aware of the possibility of our experiencing opposition, and so it speaks of “wars and battles” and the need to pray.

You see the difficulty is that we are all too likely to meet opposition; and our task is to recognise that God is always somewhere there in the story, and our task is, as Jesuits (and others) learn in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, that of “finding God in all things”.

And that is what we hear in today’s gospel, the second of the three Passion Predictions that structure the second half of Mark’s gospel. As always, the disciples hardly understand a word of what Jesus is saying, and we hear them squabbling about which of them is “Mr Big”. That of course has nothing to do with what Jesus has been telling them about his Cross and Resurrection. Then they must be reminded of the things that really matter, as Jesus reminds them of the importance of children. Jesus was *always* able to “find God in all things”

There is both sadness and joy in listening to the calling of the Lord; and I wish all of you the happiness of finding your vocation today.

Fr Nicholas King SJ

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.

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!

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: St Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs
Tue: St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Wed: Twenty-Fifth Week of the Year
Thu: St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Fri: Our Lady of Walsingham
Sat: Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
Sun: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Wisdom 2:12,17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37
Mon: Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 18:16-18
Tue: Ephesians 4:1-13; Matthew 9:9-13
Wed: Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6
Thu: Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9
Fri: Haggai 1:15-2:9; Luke 9:18-22
Sat: Zechariah 2:5-15; Luke 9:43-45
Sun: Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-48

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 8th 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 & a Sister of Carmel, Notting Hill.
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.

The London Eucharistic Octave Procession

The Westminster Parishes of Maiden Lane, Warwick Street, Spanish Place, and Farm Street with the Ukrainian Cathedral and the Order of Malta, have been running a week of celebration centred on the Blessed Sacrament. This will conclude on **Sunday 19th September** with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the heart of London. Beginning at **3.30pm** at Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street (W1B 5LZ) the procession will make its way to Spanish Place, via Farm Street Church and the Ukrainian Cathedral, closing with Solemn Benediction in St James's Church (W1U 3QY).

The procession will be led by the Rt. Revd. Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparch of the Ukrainian Eparchy of the Holy Family, and Rt. Revd. Mgr. Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

All are invited to participate in the full procession. However, the procession will be arriving at Farm Street Church at 4pm for prayers and benediction outside, before continuing onwards.

For more information, visit <https://catholicengland.org/>

The Tim Hetherington Film Club at Farm Street returns!

6.30pm for 7.00pm start, on Tuesday 21 September, in the Arrupe Hall. Free of charge. Drinks and refreshments available. Donations welcome.

'Inigo - the Knight Who Fell to his Knees'

The moving story of the change that took place in 1521 in the life of Ignatius of Loyola leading him to found the Jesuit Order of Catholic priests

It just takes one moment to set in motion a lifelong process of change and inspiration. This one-man film takes you on the journey of St Ignatius of Loyola. Let the story resonate with your life experience.

Embrace a change you need to make today. See in which ways it guides you towards a more satisfactory life.

This brand new 2021 film is part of anniversary events, 'Inigo 500'. It was written by Dries van den Akker SJ and acted by John Bosco Noronha SJ.

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.

Home Mission Appeal

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Home Mission appeal. All money donated will go to the important work making the Gospel known to the people of England and Wales.

Apply to work for Right To Life UK

Are you looking to leave a corporate career and instead use your skills and energy to make a significant positive difference to this world? Right To Life UK are currently hiring for a number of positions across media, public affairs, digital and operations.

In particular, they are looking to urgently fill positions in their Public Affairs team, to ensure that they have the right team in place ahead of their opposition making further attempts to introduce radical changes to abortion and assisted suicide legislation.

They are looking for highly-skilled, hard-working, professional individuals to join them.

If this is of interest to you or if you know of anyone that would be suitable for one of the positions, please visit the link below to view the roles they are looking to hire for and learn how to apply.

www.righttolife.org.uk/jobs/

Jesuit Refugee Service Response to Afghanistan

Events in Afghanistan have left all of us moved and work has begun to welcome those who have already arrived here in the UK. Local authorities and charities have been working to ensure initial basic needs are met but there will be much work ahead to settle these refugees. We have called on the UK to welcome more people and are concerned what might happen to those who haven't yet arrived in the UK and may have to take dangerous journeys to get to safety. You can read about our response here:

<https://www.jrsuk.net/news/the-uk-government-must-protect-afghans-seeking-sanctuary/>

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

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

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

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 lengthy period 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.