

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
26th 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

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Leninha Assis, Catechist
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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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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

This Sunday's Gospel (cf. Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48) presents us with one of those characteristics that are very instructive about Jesus' life with his disciples. They had seen a man — who did not belong to the group of Jesus' followers — casting out demons in Jesus' name, and thus they wanted to forbid him to do so. With the zealous enthusiasm typical of young people, John refers the matter to the Teacher, seeking his support. However, quite to the contrary, Jesus replies: "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us" (vv. 39-40).

John and the other disciples display a 'closed' attitude when faced with a circumstance that does not fit with their programme, in this case the action, albeit good, of a person 'outside' the circle of followers. Jesus on the other hand, appears very free, fully open to the freedom of the Spirit of God, whose actions are not limited by any confines nor boundaries. Jesus wants to educate his disciples — and us today — on this inner freedom.

It is good for us to reflect on this episode and to perform a small examination of conscience. The disciples' attitude is very human, very common, and we can observe this in Christian communities throughout history, probably in ourselves as well. In good faith, indeed with zeal, one would like to protect the authenticity of a certain experience, safeguarding the founder or leader from false impersonators. But at the same time, there is a sort of fear of 'competition' — and this is bad: the fear of competition —, that someone may steal new followers, and we are thus unable to appreciate the good that others do: it is not good because he is 'not one of us', they say. It is a form of self-referentiality. Actually, there is the root of proselytism here. And the Church — Pope Benedict used to say — does not grow through proselytism; it grows by attraction, that is, it grows by bearing witness to others with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

God's great freedom in giving himself to us represents a challenge and an exhortation to modify our behaviours and our relationships. It is the invitation which Jesus addresses to us today. He calls us not to think according to the categories of 'friend/enemy', 'us/them', 'those who are in/those who are out', 'mine/yours', but rather to go beyond, to open our heart in order to be able to recognize God's presence and action, even in unusual and unpredictable

environments that are not part of our circle. It is a matter of being more attentive to the authenticity of the good, the beautiful and the true that is done, rather than to the name and the origin of the one who does it. And — as the remaining part of the Gospel suggests to us today — instead of judging others, we must examine ourselves and 'sever', without compromise, all that can scandalize those persons who are weakest in faith.

May the Virgin Mary, an example of docile openness to God's surprises, help us to recognize the signs of the Lord's presence in our midst, so that we may find him everywhere he manifests himself, even in the most unthinkable and unusual situations. May she teach us to love our community without jealousy or closure, always open to the vast horizon of the action of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis

Delivered at Saint Peter's Square on Sunday, 30 September 2018

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.

Liturgical Calendar

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| Sun: | Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon: | St Vincent de Paul, Priest |
| Tue: | Feria; St Wenceslaus, Martyr; St Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs |
| Wed: | Ss Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels |
| Thu: | St Jerome, Priest & Doctor |
| Fri: | St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor |
| Sat: | The Holy Guardian Angels |
| Sun: | Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time |

Daily Bible Readings

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| Sun: | Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-48 |
| Mon: | Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 |
| Tue: | Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 |
| Wed: | Daniel 7:9-14; John 1:47-51 |
| Thu: | Nehemiah 8:1-12; Luke 10:1-12 |
| Fri: | Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 |
| Sat: | Baruch 4:5-12,27-29; Matthew 18:1-10 |
| Sun: | Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16 |

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!

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.

Fr Michael O'Halloran RIP

We are sorry to inform you that Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ died on Thursday morning (23rd September). He was 91 years old, in the 74th year of religious life. Many of you will remember Fr Michael from his time as parish priest at Farm Street Church between 1998 and 2004. Funeral details will be forthcoming in due course. Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine.

Fr Meredith Memorial Mass

A sung Memorial Mass for Fr Anthony Meredith SJ (12th April 1936 – 25th June 2020) will be celebrated at Farm Street Church at 2.30pm on Tuesday 12th October. The Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Arrupe Hall. All who would like to attend are invited to do so.

Retreat in Daily Life

The Retreat in Daily Life is an online, individually guided retreat, run over the course of a week by the London Jesuit Centre. The course being run from Sunday 17th October to Friday 22nd October is particularly intended for parishioners of Farm Street Church. The opening session is at 7.00pm on the Sunday. The closing session is at 7.00pm on the Friday. Optional workshops are Monday to Thursday at 7.00pm. Daily one-to-one meetings online with your retreat guide are arranged at a mutually convenient time.

“In this time of uncertainty for so many, a spiritual guide can help you find a new path. Would you like to make more time to pray, but aren't sure where to start? Do you want to spend more time with God and reflect on your life's path? Perhaps you would like some time out from a busy, full life for some quieter time? Or have you wondered about going on retreat but not got round to it because life gets in the way? Then the Retreat in Daily Life online is for you.

As the Retreat in Daily Life is individually guided and tailored to the experience of the individual, it is equally suitable for those with some retreat experience and also for beginners with little or no experience of retreat.

The Retreat in Daily Life is a Christian retreat and will use the Christian Scriptures as a basis for prayer and meditation.

The Retreat in Daily Life starts with an introductory meeting on Zoom for all the participants and retreat guides. Prior to this meeting, we will match you up with a retreat guide who will arrange your individual online meeting times for each day, Monday to Friday, at a time that works for you. These sessions usually last 20-30 minutes. You can do the retreat alongside your daily life, but making some time for prayer each day (we suggest finding 30-minutes for prayer each day). The retreat ends with a closing session online for all participants. Each evening (7.00-8.00pm) there will be an optional prayer workshop on different aspects and techniques of prayer and meditation. We also have lots of online resources to help you pray at home.

If you have questions about Retreat in Daily Life, please contact ljc@jesuit.org.uk.

While the course is free, there is an invited contribution of £50-£150"

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

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.

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

Call To Action

Caritas Westminster is co-ordinating the Diocese's response to refugees newly arrived from Afghanistan. In particular they are looking for: anyone who can help find accommodation, including homes for large families; speakers of Pashtu, Dari or Farsi who could help with interpretations; and teachers of English (ESOL). If you can help, please contact cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

Details: <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-to-support-afghan-refugees.php>.

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>

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

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.