

# Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



## Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer  
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### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Steven Fachada, [farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk)

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Debbie Martin, [farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### **Parish Office**

**ADDRESS:** 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH  
**TELEPHONE:** 020 7493 7811  
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**WEBSITE:** [www.farmstreet.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

**Pastoral Letter for the Twenty-seventh  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2-3 October 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so pleased to be able to write to you now, at a time when our streets are again busier and, thank God, our churches are becoming fuller. I say again how grateful I am to all who have helped to keep our churches open and our parish communities functioning over these past difficult eighteen months: stewards, those who have kept in contact with the elderly and vulnerable, and so many others. I thank each and every one of you, most sincerely indeed.

The relationships we forge and sustain in our parishes make such an important contribution to the networks of contact, companionship, community through which we live. Indeed, the readings we have just heard speak of the variety of relationships which characterise our world.

The reading from the Book of Genesis speaks of our relationships with the animal world. Both this reading and the Gospel address marriage, a high point indeed of human contact and companionship. But also one that, as with all serious commitments, can be so demanding. Even as we do all we can to support matrimony and Christian families in our society, we must also ensure that those for whom it has ended in breakdown should always be offered our assistance and our prayers.

Today I would like to focus especially on the relationships we find in the community and companionship of the Church. The patterns and potential of parish life have been seriously and profoundly disrupted in the last eighteen months or so. So has life in our schools and in all other expressions of the life of the Church. But now that there is greater normality in daily life, we have a unique opportunity to refresh and maybe reshape these patterns of life in the Church.

Indeed, Pope Francis is asking us to do so. In starting what can be described as a 'Church-wide listening process' he is inviting us to listen again to each other, hearing experiences of faith with all its joys and disappointments, and to find new ways of strengthening each other.

Pope Francis envisages what is called a 'Synodal process'. The language may sound a bit technical, but

the word 'synod' means quite simply 'journeying together'. The Holy Father is offering us the opportunity to participate in a time of listening and reflecting. He hopes this will help us to discern how God's presence comes into our lives and what the Spirit of God is prompting us to do anew, so that we might be more alive and creative in our response to the call of Jesus, our Way, Truth and Life.

There is a world-wide aspect to this process, leading to a Synod of Bishops in 2023. But the Pope asks us to begin in our own situations, with our own experience, especially of this last year and a half which has surfaced both strengths and weaknesses in our life as the Church. The kind of questions we can explore are these: during this terrible pandemic what strengths did I find in my faith and faith community? How, during this time, was I disappointed and sorrowful? In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift me? Whom did we neglect the most? Who feels left out? What could we do better? How do we choose priorities for our own mission?

I have found these words, taken from the guide to this process issued by Rome, to be helpful and inspiring:

'The purpose of the synod is not to produce more documents. Rather it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.' (Vademecum 1.3)

In our diocese, as in every diocese throughout the world, this 'Synodal' pathway will begin on the weekend of 16/17 October. Our immediate part in the process is short and concentrated: as a diocese we have to have our reflections brought together by February. So in the next few days and weeks there will be invitations issued for a variety of ways in which you could take part, in your parish, through the school. Joining in will focus not so much on discussing ideas but in sharing experience and, on that basis, trying to sense what needs to be done, all shaped by prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We all know the adage 'It's good to talk'. We know how important communication is for every relationship. But talking must be matched by listening. Indeed, often the listening is more demanding, and really it should come first. So it is with this 'Synodal' invitation. The pathway is listening, the task is discerning together the important lessons and prompting of the Holy Spirit, and the outcome greater

participation in the life and mission given to us by the Lord.

This lovely initiative of Pope Francis is an opportunity for us to show our care for the family of the Church. It shines with the Holy Father's character of openness, compassion, and eagerness for renewal. Please do take it up in whatever ways you can.

May God bless our efforts, open our hearts to one another and prompt us powerfully to know more clearly the way God has set out for us to be messengers of the joy and consolation which God alone can provide.

May God bless you all,

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster

### CAFOD COLLECTION

There will be a second collection this weekend to support the important work of CAFOD. For more information, please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/>

### Liturgical Calendar

**Sun:** Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Mon:** St Francis of Assisi  
**Tue:** Feria; St Faustina Kowalska, Virgin  
**Wed:** Feria; St Bruno, Priest  
**Thu:** Our Lady of the Rosary  
**Fri:** Feria  
**Sat:** St John Henry Newman, Priest  
**Sun:** Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sun:** Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2:9-11;  
Mark 10:2-16  
**Mon:** Jonah 1:1-2:1,11; Luke 10:25-37  
**Tue:** Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42  
**Wed:** Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4  
**Thu:** Malachi 3:13-20; Luke 11:5-13  
**Fri:** Joel 1:13-2:2; Luke 11:15-26  
**Sat:** I Corinthians 2:10-16; Matthew 13:47-52  
**Sun:** Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrews 4:12-13;  
Mark 10:17-30

### 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](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)

### The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of October, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for missionary disciples. Let us pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses to a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

### Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are normally served in the Arrupe Hall after the Sunday 9.30am, 11am, and 5.30pm Masses (*refreshments after 5.30pm Mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays only*). However, due to the Arrupe Hall being used for another Jesuit event, refreshments this Sunday need to be cancelled. Normal service will resume on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Single Life. Speakers: Hannah Vaughan-Spruce & Jack Valero  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Married Life. Speakers: Brenden & Laura Thompson  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Call to the Religious Life. Speakers: Fr Ladislav Sulik SJ & a Sister of Carmel, Notting Hill.  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Life as a Lay Missionary, Deacon, and Priest. Speakers: Sarah Morgan, Deacon Adrian Cullen, and Fr Mark Walker.  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Meredith Memorial Mass

A sung Memorial Mass for Fr Anthony Meredith SJ (12<sup>th</sup> April 1936 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020) will be celebrated at Farm Street Church at 2.30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:ljc@jesuit.org.uk).

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

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:landingsouth@gmail.com)

### Help the Homeless Donation Hub

During the first Covid 19 lockdown in the Spring 2020, Companions of the Order of Malta and Westminster City Council worked in partnership to start a donation hub for the homeless. The aim was to streamline the donations available and produce a circular network where the necessary supplies were available to support vulnerable individuals being housed in the hotels and hostels and the street population. During the first lockdown we donated over 35,000 items to the homeless.

Donation Hub location:

St James's Spanish Place, 22 George Street, Marylebone, London W1U 3QY

The hall is down the stone steps to the left of the red sign.

Opening times for receiving donations:

Monday 6 – 8pm

Thursday 6 – 8pm

Please email before delivering to confirm our opening times.

Types of Donations we can accept:

Men's clothes and shoes (no women or children's clothes please)

Toiletries for men and women – only unopened items please

Entertainment items e.g. books – fact or fiction/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items  
Please ensure the books are appropriate for the homeless community

e.g. No recipe books

We look forward to receiving your donations.

Thank you very much for supporting this project.

Contact: Kate MacKenzie:

[companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk](mailto:companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk)

### **JRS Next Week**

There will be a second collection next week to support the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service. For more information about their work, please visit <https://www.jrsuk.net/>

### **Is there a Specifically Christian/Catholic Response to the Climate Crisis?**

Date: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Time: 7-9pm

Location: London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street  
Join Dr Keith Chappell as he reflects on the social and theological significance of the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Part of the London Jesuit Centre's 'Autumn Conversations', they bring the eyes of faith to yet another pressing global problem. Climate change will almost certainly be the defining issue the world in these coming years. How might theology and faith help us to a fuller and deeper understanding of, and response to, the climate emergency?

To register for a place, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/is-there-a-specifically-christiancatholic-response-to-the-climate-crisis-tickets-180046302337>

### **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](mailto:farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk). Thank you again for your support.

### **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