

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 10th 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

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

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

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)

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

YEAR B

ENTRY

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

RESPONSE

Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

COMMUNION

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

THE PRACTICE OF DISCERNMENT

You may have heard that just at present we Jesuits are being invited to reflect on our four Universal Apostolic priorities, which have been given us after a good deal of prayerful reflection, and warmly endorsed by the Holy Father. In consequence we have decided to share with you something of these four priorities over the next four Sundays. You might like to reflect on your experience in attending this beautiful church, and just examine what we do in this parish, whether we are in fact living out these priorities, and whether you have any suggestions for ways in which we might do it better.

Our first priority, then, (and Pope Francis insisted that this was absolutely basic to all our deliberations and all our ministry) is that we are to show the way to God, through the Spiritual Exercises and the practice of discernment. You will notice that there is already a good deal of this going on, with spiritual direction, and perhaps in sermons and religious services, which should be pointing the way to God if we get it right.

Perhaps we might use this Sunday's readings a way into this question. In the first reading, we listened in some astonishment as the young King Solomon prayed for the gift of wise discernment; there is a lesson for us here as he is explicitly excluding from his prayer any mention of power or wealth or health, or even precious stones; because, as he argues, all these come to those who have the gift of wise discernment. We have, you see, to get our priorities right, to have a grip on the things that really matter.

And wise discernment is what is on offer in the psalm for today, which asks God for the grace "to count our days and so gain a heart of wisdom". But like many of us the singer is perhaps not convinced that God is really listening, for he cries "Come back O Lord - how long"; and he is looking for a calculus of joy to balance the years of misfortune. Perhaps he has not fully understood the business of discernment, of listening to God; but he is getting there, and asks for the grace, which Jesuits pray for in the Spiritual Exercises, of "finding God in all things" For he asks: "Let your work be evident to your servants". And his next prayer is one that any of us could make; "Let the Lord's favour be upon us - establish the works of our hands upon us". There is a profound recognition here, which Jesuits and all the rest of us must share, that it is in the end God who is in charge; and any success that we may have is never our doing, but the work of God in us. There is wisdom here.

And there is wisdom, too, in our second reading, from the great work of theology that is the Letter to the Hebrews; it is not easy, but if you keep in mind that for our author it is quite simply that Jesus is the Real Thing, then it makes sense. If we can get that right, then we are on the way to doing serious discernment, finding our way to God. So he speaks of "God's living word", where what matters is God's power, not our own. Then he uses a powerful metaphor on which we shall do well to reflect, "God's word is living and active, sharper than a *two-edged sword*...all creation is open to it: everything is stripped bare and vulnerable to his gaze".

Then the gospel offers us two failures to discern. There is, first and most obvious, that of the one whom we may call the "bumptious pietist"; and, secondly that of Peter. The bumptious pietist, as we heard, came bouncing up to Jesus, and genuflected to Jesus, demanding to know how to inherit eternal life. Now that is a wrong question, utterly undiscerning; for the important question is none of these but "What is God doing in the story?". So we listen, perhaps a bit puzzled, as Jesus apparently rejects being called "good", on the grounds that only God can be called that; once again, you see, the focus is on God. Then he is told to keep the commandments, significantly, perhaps, not those which deal with our attitudes to God, but those which talk about how we are to behave towards our fellow humans, to which Jesus adds "do not defraud"; perhaps he thought that was something to which the bumptious pietist needed to pay some attention. Perhaps his call to discernment required him to relieve himself of the distractions of great wealth. Only if we get rid of irrelevant seductions can we discern the call of God.

And so to the second failure to discern; this (as so often) is that of Jesus' disciples, who are shaken to the core about the call to poverty; and this increases considerably when Jesus makes the alarming remark that "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God". They and we are stunned at this, and Peter sums up their failure to discern by asking, in effect, "What's in it for us, then?" Discerning comes to us only when we recognise that there are obstacles on our journey to God which God invites us to clear away.

Are there ways in which we might do a better job of showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: Feria; St John XXIII, Pope
Tue: Feria; St Wilfrid, Bishop
Wed: St Edward the Confessor
Thu: Feria; St Callistus I, Pope & Martyr
Fri: St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor
Sat: Feria; St Hedwig, Religious;
St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
Sun: Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrews 4:12-13;
Mark 10:17-30
Mon: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
Tue: Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41
Wed: Romans 2:1-11; Luke 11:42-46
Thu: Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54
Fri: Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7
Sat: Romans 4:13-18; Luke 12:8-12
Sun: Isaiah 53:10-11; Hebrews 4:14-16;
Mark 10:35-45

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.

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

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.

JRS Collection

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

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.

Introducing the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus

The Universal Apostolic Preferences are the fruit of a worldwide process of discernment lasting almost two years. All Jesuits were invited to take part and in addition our mission partners. It concluded with a confirmation from Pope Francis in a special meeting with Fr General Arturo Sosa.

The Preferences give a horizon, a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus. They capture our imaginations and awaken our desires. They unite us in our mission. The new Preferences are four areas vital for our world today. The Society of Jesus will pay special attention to them in the next ten years.

Over the next 4 weeks we invite you to learn more as each weekend the newsletter article is devoted to 1 of the apostolic preferences. In addition the particular preference that weekend will find a place in the homilies. The plan is as follows:

October 10th: To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment

October 17th: To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice

October 24th: To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future

October 31st: To collaborate in the care of our Common Home

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!

Remembrance Service

There will be a service of remembrance for Baby Loss Awareness Week at 3pm on Sunday 10th October at St Mark's Anglican Church, Hamilton Terrace. All are welcome to attend.

Tim Hetherington Film Club at Farm Street

Next showing: Arrupe Hall **6.30pm for 7.00pm** on
Thursday 28 October

Cost: free refreshments (with donations)

Presenting: **'The Two Popes'** (2019)

Starring: Jonathan Pryce as Jorge Cardinal
Bergoglio and Anthony Hopkins as Pope Benedict

An intimate story of one of the most dramatic transitions of power in the last 2,000 years. Frustrated with the direction of the church, Cardinal Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce) requests permission to retire in 2012 from Pope Benedict (Anthony Hopkins). Instead, facing scandal and self-doubt, the introspective Pope Benedict summons his harshest critic and future successor to Rome to reveal a secret that would shake the foundations of the Catholic Church. Behind Vatican walls, a struggle commences between both tradition and progress, guilt and forgiveness, as these two very different men confront their pasts in order to find common ground and forge a future for a billion followers around the world. Inspired by true events. For more information email David at dthurst52@gmail.com

Concert at Farm Street Church

A special concert will take place at 8pm on Saturday 16th October at Farm Street Church.

Organised by Notre Dame de France choir, the concert will feature a mix of European and African classical pieces, some of which have never been performed in the UK before.

Tickets are on sale **for £15** on EventBrite, with all proceeds going to Farm Street charities. Children under the age of ten go free. Search Eventbrite for Mozarfrica I

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.

For more information and to sign up, please contact ljc@jesuit.org.uk.

October 2021 Catholic History Walks

All welcome! No need to book - just turn up! Each walk last about one and a half to two hours, but you can leave at any time. A donation of £5 is suggested.

SUNDAY October 17th meet 3.30pm Church of the Most Precious Blood, OMeara Street London SE1 1TN. We'll walk along the river to Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast.

THURSDAY October 21st Meet 6.30pm (after 6pm Mass) Church of SS Anselm and Cecilia, Kingsway, London WC2B 6DX. Nearest tube: Holborn. We'll learn the story of the Sardinian Chapel, Lincoln's Inn martyrs and the Ship pub.

THURSDAY October 28th. Meet 2.30pm (NOTE TIME) at main gate, St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4SX for a Riverside Walk. We'll discover stories of exiled royals and a local hero...and finish across the river at Richmond.

More information: www.catholichistorywalks.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 and to sign up to their mailing list for regular updates on events, please visit <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/>.

For more information, contact Anne Paolino at apaolino@jesuit.org.uk.

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