

# Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



## The Baptism of the Lord 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Year B)

### **PARISH CLERGY**

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest  
Fr Chris Pedley SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

### **REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY**

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ  
Fr Adrian Porter SJ; Fr Laco Sulik SJ

### **PARISH STAFF**

George McCombe, Parish Secretary  
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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**

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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

By appointment

### **BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS**

By appointment. Dates are subject to lockdown developments.

### **CHURCH OPENING HOURS**

**Monday to Saturday:** 7.30am - 6.30pm

**Sunday:** 7.30am – 7.00pm

### **LONDON JESUIT CENTRE**

All events are suspended until further notice. 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 a strong 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.

## THOUGHTS ON OUR LORD'S BAPTISM

Over the Christmas period, we have been thinking about Our Lord's humility as he humbled himself to share in our humanity. We have seen him as a little baby, poor and in a manger or as a refugee fleeing to the safety of Egypt in his mother's arms. He is Son of God yet as a baby he depends completely on Mary and Joseph for food and warmth, shelter and security. That humility continues to shine in today's feast. He comes to the River Jordan many years later, hidden years at Nazareth, working with Joseph as a carpenter. He comes to John the Baptist to be baptised along with many other people. You wouldn't have been able to pick him out. It is a humble way of showing himself to be a servant (as the prophets foretold), humbly beginning his ministry of preaching and healing. Although he is completely without sin, he stands among sinners, as one of them, accepting with them a ritual of repentance, though he has nothing to repent of. As well as being a sign of his humility, baptism is also a sign of his commitment to the Father on behalf of sinners, a commitment to his mission of salvation. As we hear in the first reading from the prophecy of Isaiah: 'Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver or be crushed until true justice is established on earth.' That will be through his sacrifice on the cross, another sort of baptism. Before that takes place he will say: 'There is a baptism I must still receive, and what constraint I am under until it is completed' (Lk.12.50). Just as he was plunged into the waters of the Jordan, so he will be plunged into a painful and ignominious death.

Christ as humble and committed Servant is summed up in the Preface of today's Mass, which is addressed to God the Father:

'So that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.'

Each one of us was anointed when we were baptised, to share with Our Lord as servants. After the water was poured three times on our heads, special oil of chrism was applied by the priest or deacon with these words: 'As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.'

What does it mean to me to live as a member of Christ's body and be a servant as he was? What does it mean to me to promise to live and share in Our Lord's unselfish dedication and commitment in my everyday life?

**FR. TONY NYE, S.J.**

*From the archives. First published 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015.*

### Thank You

On behalf of the Jesuit Community and Farm Street Team very many thanks to all for your wonderfully generous Christmas gifts and donations. It is especially appreciated at this time when many are struggling. Many thanks indeed to one and all, Fr Dominic

### 2021 Lockdown

Many people have been in touch to ask in what way the latest lockdown measures affect churches in England. The answer is that churches are permitted to remain open both for private prayer and public worship. Public Masses will continue to be celebrated at Farm Street Church and the church will remain open daily for private prayer. Unless exempt, face-coverings are required when inside the building, and social distancing needs to be observed. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### Liturgical Calendar

**Sun:** The Baptism of the Lord  
**Mon:** Feria  
**Tue:** Feria; St Aelred of Rievaulx  
**Wed:** Feria; St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor  
**Thu:** Feria  
**Fri:** Feria  
**Sat:** The Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday  
**Sun:** Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sun:** Isaiah 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11  
**Mon:** Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20  
**Tue:** Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28  
**Wed:** Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39  
**Thu:** Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45  
**Fri:** Hebrews 4:1-5,11; Mark 2:1-12  
**Sat:** Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17  
**Sun:** I Samuel 3:3-10,19; I Corinthians 6:13-20; John 1:35-42

### **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)

### **Holy Communion 2021**

Holy Communion preparation begins in the end of January 2021. The programme is designed for all Catholic children who are registered and are in year three of Primary Education by 29th of September 2021. To request an application form, please contact us on [farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk). The filled form must be sent back by 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Teen (14 +) Confirmation 2021**

The next preparation for teen (14+) confirmation begins in the end of January 2021. The programme is designed for all catholic teenagers (14 +) who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2021. To request an application form, please contact us on [farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk). The filled form must be sent back by 20<sup>th</sup> January

### **Christian Unity Week**

Christian Unity Week will take place this year from the 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January. To mark the occasion, the Reverend Richard Fermer from the Grosvenor Chapel will preach at the 11am Mass at Farm Street Church on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, and Fr Dominic will preach at the Grosvenor Chapel on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Farm Street Church and the Grosvenor Chapel will be hosting three online ecumenical prayer vigils. These will take place at 8pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January. These vigils will consist of prayers, readings, and a short homily. The vigils are entitled:

First vigil -Abiding in Christ: The unity of the whole person

Second vigil – The visible unity of Christians

Third vigil – The unity of all peoples with all creation

The services will take place via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact the Parish Secretary at [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk).

### **2021 Church Diaries**

We now have 2021 Farm Street Church diaries in stock. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic restrictions, we cannot currently sell them. We will inform you when these are available for purchase. The cost for a diary is £1.

### **Charity Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Advent Charity Raffle. The raffle raised £2,414, which will be divided between the Catholic Children's Society and Water Aid.

### **Copenhagen Street Foodbank**

Farm Street Church is collecting supplies for the Copenhagen Street Foodbank. This foodbank is an independent community set up with the support of Caritas Westminster, and operates on Thursday, 1pm to 3.30pm, in the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall in Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR. They are appealing for donations of non-perishable foods (such as pasta, rice, tinned food, biscuits etc), toiletries, household items (such as laundry liquid and detergent), feminine products, and baby supplies. If you would like to donate supplies, please them in bags in front of the statue of Homeless Jesus.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society**

The St Vincent de Paul Society are looking for befrienders. The role of a befriender is to visit someone in their own home about once a week (or every two weeks). In the event of further Covid-related restrictions, phone calls are a possibility. If you would be interested to explore this, please can you contact Sandra McNally: [s.mcnally1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.mcnally1@lse.ac.uk); tel. 07779 078933.

### **Stonyhurst Association Webinar**

The second in the series of Association webinars is on Tuesday 19th January at 6.00pm. Following Dr Austen Ivereigh's webinar in December the second guest speaker is Sarah Teather, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the UK since January 2016. Sarah was MP for Brent East (later Brent Central) for 12 years, during which time she served as the Minister of State for Children and Families in the Conservative/Lib Dem Coalition Government. Sarah left Parliament in 2015 and has worked for JRS in Rome, and the UK, since then. In this webinar, Sarah will explore the challenges facing refugees, why they are a poignant and challenging sign of our times not to be ignored, and why the Church, and the Jesuit family in particular, prioritises pastoral and practical work with refugees. If you would like to attend, please register here

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ktlcdo0hIU-KX2NKFJgFzF3BA6sbjxRDgUwVLpeopnhUREQ0UTRLS0Q2RUhJOVBZQkJUSFhKSVhNNS4u>

## Face Covering Update

'Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass [or for private prayer] as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet.' (Statement issued by the Bishops' Conference). For more information about the mandatory wearing of face masks, please visit the following link to the relevant section of the Government website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

## Prayer, Virtue and Discipleship: Keys to Pastoral Ministry

A new enriching ministry online course over three Mondays: 25th January, 1st & 8th February 2021 Time: 18:00 – 21:00 hours GMT online via Zoom This course aims to enrich the pastoral ministry of participants and to make accessible to them the formative wisdom of Christian mystics and spiritual masters. The short course is therefore, suitable for a wide range of people: those who work in pastoral settings (hospitals, chaplaincies, prisons, in ministry) and those who are simply interested in understanding more about the spiritual life and pastoral ministry. The tutors are: Dr Susan Muto and Lori Mitchel McMahon - Epiphany Association, Pittsburgh, USA. To register, follow the following link: <https://www.oxcacs.org/product/prayer-virtue-and-discipleship-keys-to-pastoral-ministry-2/>

### Prayer to St Corona

*Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic. Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those gone astray and, above all, increase our faith, O Lord.*

*Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St Corona, who gave her life for the love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.*

*St Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.*

## A Prayer if Anxious

*Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.*  
St Francis De Sales

### Act of Perfect Contrition

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, to avoid whatever leads me to sin, and to confess my sins when possible.*

### Act of Spiritual Communion

*Jesus, I believe you are present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You and draw closer to You. Since I cannot receive Your body and blood sacramentally at this time, come to me spiritually. Help me to embrace You more deeply and unite myself more wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from Your love. Amen*

### Supporting the Parish

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has continued to financially support the church during the many months of disruption caused by the pandemic. We are mindful that many people are currently struggling financially and may not be able to donate as they once did. If you are able to donate to the work of the parish, we would ask that you consider doing so in a way that avoids physical cash. This is for the safety of our staff, who need to physically handle and count any money that is donated. 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.