

Happy New Year

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the recent Christmas celebrations such a success at Farm Street Church. It was wonderful to see so many people here attending the various Masses over Christmas. Thank you also to everyone for your kind Christmas messages and gifts. This being the first newsletter of 2023, we wish you all a very blessed and happy New Year.

Papal Requiem

The 6pm Mass on Monday 16th January will be a requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Benedict XVI. This Mass is being organised by Aid to the Church in Need and will be followed by refreshments in the Arrupe Hall. All are welcome to attend.

The Holy Family:

Exploring Church Teaching and Life Experience

The Catholic Church's teaching on the family holds up a high ideal of family life and describes it as a path of holiness. But many people experience brokenness and difficulties in family life and may feel far from the ideal. In this abridged course we will be exploring Church teaching on family life, using Pope Francis' letter to all Christians *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love* 2016). We will have the opportunity to reflect on and share our own experience, and explore how it can relate to Church teaching in hopeful and helpful ways. This course will be run by Fr Laco Sulik SJ at 114 Mount Street between 7pm – 8pm on the following dates:

25th January
1st February
8th February
22 February
1st March

To register your interest, please contact the parish secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk.

Save The Date!

The Bard School are holding a Candlemas Celebration at Farm Street Church on 2nd February at 6pm - 10pm with candles, choirs, cantos and crepes from the Connaught! More details to follow. Please block off your diary!

Churches Together in Westminster AGM

This will be held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at Methodist Central Hall, SW1H 9NH. It will be followed by a panel discussion, titled 'Coping with a Torn Safety Net: The Church's Response to Increasing Need'. The panel will include Hannah Rich from the Theos Think Tank, along with speakers from Central London Catholic Churches, The Salvation Army, St Martin-in-the-Fields, The American International Church, and Hinde Street Methodist Church.

Doors will open at 6pm; Business and reports at 6.30pm. Panel discussion at 7pm. Refreshments at 8pm. All welcome.

Assisted Suicide Inquiry

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. We have been asked by the bishops to invite you all to participate in this enquiry.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." (*Pope Francis, July 28, 2013*)

"More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching." (*Pope Benedict XVI, February 25 2008*)

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>. The Anscombe Centre can also help the response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming – just six questions.

To participate in the inquiry, please visit <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/>

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET



The Baptism of the Lord 8th January 2023

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Nicholas King SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr David Birchall SJ; Fr Michael Bossy SJ
Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ;
Fr Laco Sulik 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

Michael Goode, Sacristan

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada,
Email: farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin,
Email: farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH
TELEPHONE: 020 7529 4829
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 – 12.55pm
Saturday: 10am to 12 noon; 5.45pm – 5.55pm
Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

YEAR A

ENTRY

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSE

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

ACCLAMATION

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him'.

COMMUNION

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



Expanding the tent continuing the synodal journey

As we begin a new calendar year, we can look to moving forward with the synodal process in the Catholic Church.

Many of us have already participated in listening to each other by filling in questionnaires, or maybe attending a group, and responses have been gathered and sent to the Westminster diocese.

Many of you will know that the Vatican has produced the Document for the Continental Stage, which summarizes views from the Church around the world so far and the Pope has extended the synod until the end of 2024. The theme of the continental document is centred around a quote from Isaiah 54:2, 'enlarge the space of your tent'. We are invited to use the metaphor of the tent to think about the church today. We are asked to consider in what ways the "tent" may need to expand, and what will be required to accommodate this.

The tent seems a helpful metaphor, because any structure relying on fabric, ropes, and poles will require the correct amount of tension to hold it up; too much tension and the fabric may tear, whilst reducing the tension may cause the structure to begin to collapse in on itself, thus reducing available capacity.

These writings would seem to be encouraging all of us in the church, laity and clergy, to continue to participate in this process of gathering and listening to each other with particular reference to using prayer and allowing the Holy Spirit to emerge and guide the way forward.

On a practical note, here at Farm Street we are organising an integrated Day of Reflection, Discernment and Discussion on Saturday, the 21st of January. This will be held in the Aula Magna on the 2nd floor at 114 Mount Street between 10am and 4 pm. We are aiming to gather as many people as possible from all parts of our congregations. The vision for this day is that people can gather from all parts of our parish church, and those involved with Jesuit young adults ministry, LGBT Catholics Westminster, and homeless services. We are aiming to embody 'journeying together' and will gather the views of all who attend on January 21st to be represented at the European continental stage assembly in Prague in February 2023. The structure of the day will be as follows:

THEME: Expanding the Tent - continuing our Synodal Journey.
10:00 Refreshments
10:15 Welcome & Introductions
10:30 Opening Reflection - *Luke 24:13-35*

10:45 Groups Discussion:

1. After having read and prayed with the Continental Stage Document, which intuitions resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?
2. After having read and prayed with the Continental Stage Document, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective? Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?

11:30 Break

12:00 Mass to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the British Jesuit Province celebrated by His Eminence, Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster. This will be followed by reception in the Arrupe Hall.

14:15 Feedback from Morning Session followed by Small Groups Discussion:

3. Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?

15:30 Plenary Feedback

16:00 Close - the Synodal Journey continues...

The Synodal working document can be found on the Diocese of Westminster website.

We are requesting that people register for this event at the following email: Farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

Dr Janet Obeney-Williams
Farm Street Parish Synodal Representative

Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are served in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30am, 11am, and 5.30pm Sunday Masses (second and fourth Sunday only for 5.30pm).

11am Music List

Mass Missa Brevis in G *Mozart*
Motets Laetatus sum *M Haydn*
 Sicut cervus *Palestrina*
Organ In dir ist Freude (BWV 615) *JS Bach*

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: The Baptism of the Lord
Mon: Feria
Tue: Feria
Wed: Feria
Thu: Feria; St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot
Fri: Feria; St Hilary, Bp (*Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
Sun: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Readings

Sun: Isaiah 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17
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 4:1-11; Mark 2:1-12
Sat: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17
Sun: Isaiah 49:3-6; I Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

A Lamp For Our Lady

To give honour to Our Lady, a lamp will now burn before her statue in the sanctuary. A 7-day lamp will be lit every Saturday, the day traditionally devoted to the Blessed Virgin, and burn throughout the week. An offering of £10 is requested to light this lamp, the intention of which will be printed every week in the Newsletter or may be kept anonymous (e.g. 'An anonymous donor for a private intention'). Please email the Parish Secretary (FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk) with your requested week and intention as well as how you wish it to be published.

The lamp this week is lit for a private intention.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Fr Michael Beattie SJ, Susan Carpenter, Marie Carroll Copestake, Maggie Danby, Lady Antonia Fraser, Paul Johnson, Erin Lillis, Laura Marani, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigussie, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Leopold, & Nick Walker.
The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. Psalm 41:3
 We pray for those in the parish who have recently died. Pope Benedict XVI, Gudrun Parini
Requiescat in pace

SVP Volunteering

The St Vincent de Paul Society have a small programme for befriending of lonely and vulnerable people. This involves a weekly or fortnightly visit to a person in their home. If you would be interested to find out more about this, please contact Sandra McNally on s.mcnally1@lse.ac.uk or phone 07779 078933. Please note that volunteers will need to get a DBS check organised with the help of the parish safeguarding officer.

Jesuits in Britain Anniversary

The Jesuits in Britain will mark the **400th anniversary** of the establishment of the British Province with a Mass on **21st January 2023** at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street. The Mass will be celebrated by **His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster**, and the homily will be given by the Provincial Superior of the British Jesuits, Father Damian Howard SJ.

The Mass will take place at 12 noon and will be followed by a reception in the Arrupe Hall at 114 Mount Street, next door to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Jesuits would be delighted to see you, and those wishing to attend are asked to email frobb@jesuit.org.uk by 10th January 2023, including any special dietary requirements you may have if you wish to attend the reception.

The Mass will mark 400 years since the establishment of a Province structure in England and Wales. The Jesuit mission is still flourishing today in Britain, with the Jesuits' pastoral, intellectual, educational, spiritual and social activities all thriving. From parishes, including Farm Street, to schools, universities (Campion Hall in Oxford), university chaplaincies (in Birmingham, Oxford and Manchester and Imperial College London), through to social centres such as JRS-UK (the Jesuit Refugee Service in Britain) and Jesuit Missions, the Jesuits continue to inspire people to work for the good of others. They have embraced new technology too; whether it's the popular prayer app Pray-As-You-Go, the wide range of spiritual and theological courses delivered online or at centres such as the London Jesuit Centre, St Beuno's and the Ignatian Spirituality Jesuit Centre in Glasgow, the Jesuits and those who work with them continue to follow the example of their founder St Ignatius of Loyola, who sought to find God in everything.

The Jesuits look forward to welcoming you on 21st January!

Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners, the new confidential helpline launched this year during Holy Week. The service which is part of the Diocese of Westminster, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith as well as to support those who need someone to talk to. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, there is a professional team trained in signposting callers to other services and agencies. For further information please email Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or call us on 0800 448 0704

Catholic Listeners are here to listen.