



## WALKING THE SYNODAL PATH AT FARM STREET CHURCH

Pope Francis has launched a worldwide process of listening and discerning, a 'synodal pathway' from October 2021-2023.

Synodal means 'journeying together'. The Pope is inviting the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission.

This is one of the most exciting developments in the Roman Catholic church since the Second Vatican Council.

There will be three types of synodal conversations:

1. Listening Events with Area Bishops  
One to One Area Listening Events  
Paired Listening Events for Young Adults, Ethnic Chaplaincies, Social Justice and Peace Network, and School Leaders

2. Online Listening Events for those who cannot attend locally.  
The diocese is inviting groups and individuals to join in area, parish, and online conversations. Please look for the details online at details at [www.rcdow.org.uk/synod](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/synod)

3. A variety of listening activities in our own Parish. Father Dominic has asked me to be the parish representative for the synodal process, and I have been spending time considering how best to serve in this role. We have started by gathering a team of individuals and have representatives who will be putting on a range of events.

At Farm Street there will be different activities, which we hope will gather the views of as many people within our church as possible, those perhaps on the margins or considering getting involved, and those connected with the church through volunteering or other projects.

Some of us in the parish identify with particular groups – it may be that you go to one of the masses regularly, you may attend on weekdays, occasionally, or at festivals and events.

You may be somebody who has popped into the church to look at the art, to pray or to spend time in our peaceful and contemplative environment. You may be a volunteer or a client/guest of the various services for homeless people that Farm Street is involved with – SVP, homeless hub, visiting the housebound.

Or be part of the ever-growing on-line community.

The parish also has connections with CLC, catholic schools through young people and their parents and universities and colleges.

Of course, many will consider themselves part of more than one group or none.

Some of the events/activities are already planned:

Steven Fachada, our pastoral council chair is arranging some listening sessions for anyone who attends the 11 am congregation. Steven will publicise these once he has confirmed the details.

Similarly, Debbie Martin and I will be arranging listening sessions for people who attend the 9:30 Mass and we had our first session on Sunday, the 2nd January 2022 in the Arupe Hall after Mass.

There will be sessions for altar servers, led by one of the young people in Farm Street.

Pauline Mercieca is arranging events for anyone who identifies as over 65, and this includes herself, and she will she aimed to have the first event before Christmas. She will be facilitating a session on 17th January 2022, and further details will follow from Pauline about this.

The younger adults who attend the 7pm mass are planning events.

Leninha Assis, our catechist, will be gathering the views of the younger children and their parents.

Leslie Giltz is leading on an on-line survey to access all who have given their email contact to the Parish, and those who access the on-line masses.

**Dr Janet Obeney-Williams**

# NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET



***The Baptism of the Lord  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2022***

### **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  
Email: [farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk)*

*David Graham, Director of Music  
Email: [farmstreetmusic@gmail.com](mailto:farmstreetmusic@gmail.com)*

*Leninha Assis, Catechist  
Email: [farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)*

*Kevin De Souza, Sacristan  
Email: [farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk)*

*Sebastian Cichocki, Maintenance  
Email: [scichocki@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:scichocki@jesuit.org.uk)*

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

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

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICE**

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

### **Parish Office**

**ADDRESS:** 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH  
**TELEPHONE:** 020 7493 7811  
**E-MAIL:** [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)  
**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)

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 C**

### **ENTRY**

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

### **RESPONSE**

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

### **COMMUNION**

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



## ANGELUS ADDRESS

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Lord's Baptism, which concludes the Christmas season. The Gospel describes what happens on the bank of the Jordan. At the time that John the Baptist baptizes Jesus, *the heavens opened*. "When he came up out of the water", St Mark writes, "immediately he saw the heavens opened" (1:10). This brings to mind the dramatic supplication of the Prophet Isaiah: "O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down" (Is 64:1). This invocation was granted at the event of the Baptism of Jesus. Thus ended the time that the "heavens were closed", which had symbolized the separation between God and man as a consequence of sin. Sin distanced us from God and broke the bond between heaven and earth, thereby determining our misery and failures in our lives. The opening of the heavens indicate that God granted his grace in order that the land bear its fruit (cf. Ps 85[84]: 11-12). This is how the earth became the dwelling place of God among men, and it is possible for each one of us to meet the Son of God, experiencing all of his love and infinite mercy. We are able to encounter Him truly present in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. We are able to recognize Him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, especially in the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the displaced: they are the living flesh of the suffering Christ and the visible image of the invisible God.

With the Baptism of Jesus, not only do the heavens open, but God speaks once again making *his voice resound*: "This is my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased" (Mk 1:11). The Father's voice proclaims the mystery that is hidden in the Man baptized by the Forerunner.

Then the *Holy Spirit* descends, in the form of a dove: this allows Christ, the Lord's Consecrated One, to inaugurate his mission, which is our salvation. The Holy Spirit: the great One forgotten in our prayers. We often pray to Jesus: we pray to the Father, especially in the "Our Father"; but we do not often pray to the Holy Spirit, is it true? He is the Forgotten One. And we need to ask for his help, his strength, his inspiration. The Holy Spirit who has wholly animated the life and mystery of Jesus, is the same Spirit who today guides Christian existence, the existence of men and women who call themselves and want to be Christians. To subject our Christian life and mission, which we

have all received in Baptism, to the action of the Holy Spirit means finding the apostolic courage necessary to overcome easy worldly accommodations. Christians and communities who are instead "deaf" to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who urges us to bring the Gospel to the to the ends of the earth and of society, also become "mutes" who do not speak and do not evangelize.

But remember this: pray often to the Holy Spirit, that He help us, give us strength, give us inspiration and enable us to go forward.

May Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, accompany the journey of all of us baptized; may she help us to grow in our love for God and in the joy of serving the Gospel, in order to thereby give full meaning to our life.

### Pope Francis

*Delivered to St Peter's Square on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2015*

### Liturgical Calendar

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

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sun:** Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Titus 2:11-3:7; Luke 3:15-22  
**Mon:** I Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20  
**Tue:** I Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28  
**Wed:** I Samuel 3:1-20; Mark 1:29-39  
**Thu:** I Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45  
**Fri:** I Samuel 8:4-22; Mark 2:1-12  
**Sat:** I Samuel 9:1-10:1; Mark 2:13-17  
**Sun:** Isaiah 62:1-5; I Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

### The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of January 2022, we pray for true human fraternity. Let us pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

### 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)

### Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ Memorial

A memorial Mass will be celebrated for Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ RIP on Monday 24th January at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Synod on Synodality

The Catholic Church is currently in a process of listening in preparation for the Synod on Synodality. The Pope has made it clear that this is a journey in which all people are invited to participate. Here at Farm Street Church, we have a team of people working on our parish response to this invitation. We need to hear your views on the wider Church. Please pick up a questionnaire at the back of the church, fill it in, and deposit it in the marked box (also at the back of the church). You can also download a form on our website homepage and e-mail it to us. The Westminster Synod Team will start collating responses on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and try to finalise their Synthesis by 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Sunday Refreshments

Due to the rise of the Omicron variant of Covid, Sunday refreshments will be suspended until at least the end of January 2022.

### Churches Together in Westminster

The CTiW 2022 AGM will take place on Monday, 17th January at 6pm via Zoom.

Following the AGM there will be talks exploring how to make your church more environmentally-friendly following Cop26, including how to become an EcoChurch and how to get involved in Citizens UK Just Transition campaign.

Speakers will include

- Helen Stephens, Church Relations Manager, A Rocha UK introducing EcoChurch;
- Rev Simon Woodman, Minister, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, on Citizens UK JustTransition campaign;
- Rev Joan Ishibashi, St James Piccadilly on becoming an EcoChurch

Register for the Zoom link at [www.ctiw.london/2021/ctiw-agm-and-talks](http://www.ctiw.london/2021/ctiw-agm-and-talks)

### Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Carmine di Cesare, Marie Carroll Copestake, Dietra Breedon, Michael Gill, Chris Hicks, Sarah Perceval, and Alan Stewart.  
*The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. Psalm 41:3*

### White Flower Appeal 2022

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> January. SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life Speech. Pro-life witness is being restricted now more than ever; we must be able to speak freely to protect unborn babies. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC protect unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

### 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](mailto: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.