

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

Christmas Mass & Service Times

Christmas Eve

(Saturday 24th December)

16:00 First Mass of Christmas with carols
18:00 Mass with Children's Nativity Play
23.30 Christmas Carols (Doors open 23:00)
00:00 Midnight Mass with Farm Street Choir

Christmas Day

(Sunday 25th December)

08:00 Mass with carols
09.30 Family Mass with carols
11:00 Solemn Latin Mass with choir
12.30 Mass with carols
17:30 Mass with carols
No 19:00 Young Adult Mass

Boxing Day to Friday 30th December

Church opens at 11:00
12:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
13:05 Mass
Church closes immediately after Mass

Saturday 31st December

As normal

Sunday 1st January

Sunday schedule as normal.
No 19:00 Young Adult Mass

Monday 2nd January

Church opens at 11:00
12:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
13:05 Mass
Church closes at 14:00

Tuesday 3rd January

Normal schedule resumes

Confessions will be heard as normal with the addition of 10:00 to 16:00 confessions in the church on Christmas Eve.

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). Refreshments will not be served after Masses on Christmas Day.

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

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Susan Carpenter, Marie Carroll Copestake, Maggie Danby, 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. Michael Wymes

Requiescat in pace

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 in thanksgiving to Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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.



Christmastide 2022

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

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

*“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6*

The clergy and parish staff want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life, and whatever your situation, you are most welcome here and we are glad that you are celebrating the birth of our Saviour, the Word made flesh, with us (whether in person or in spirit). May God bless you and your family today and throughout the year to come.



CHRISTMAS ANTIPHONS

CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24th DECEMBER

ENTRY

Today you will know that the Lord will come,
and he will save us, and in the morning you will
see his glory.

RESPONSE

Today a saviour has been born to us; He is
Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour
has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all
flesh will see the salvation of our God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-7 Psalm 95
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY (DAWN MASS, 8AM) 25th DECEMBER

ENTRY

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is
born for us; and he will be called Wondrous
God, Prince of Peace, Father of future ages; and
His reign will be without end.

RESPONSE

This day new light will shine upon the earth: the
Lord is born for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace
to men who enjoy His favour.

COMMUNION

Rejoice, O Daughter of Sion; lift up praise,
Daughter Jerusalem: Behold your King will
come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 62:11-12 Psalm 96
Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th DECEMBER

ENTRY

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
His sceptre of power rests upon His shoulder,
and His name will be called Messenger of
great counsel.

RESPONSE

All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come,
you nations, worship the Lord, for today a
great light has shown down upon the earth.

COMMUNION

All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 97
Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 1st January

ENTRY

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

RESPONSE

O God, be gracious and bless us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

At various times in the past and in various
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets; but in our own time, the
last days, He has spoken to us through His
Son.

COMMUNION

Jesus Chris the same yesterday, today, and for
ever.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 66
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Christmas Day
Mon: St Stephen, The First Martyr
Tue: St John, Apostle & Evangelist
Wed: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Thu: St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
Fri: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &
Joseph (*No Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Seventh Day in the octave of
Christmas
Sun: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Mon: St Basil the Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors
Tue: Christmas feria; The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Wed: Christmas feria
Thu: Christmas feria
Fri: The Epiphany of the Lord
Sat: Christmas feria; St Raymond of Penyaford
Sun: The Baptism of the Lord

Daily Readings

Sun: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6;
John 1:1-18
Mon: Acts 6:8-7:59; Matthew 10:17-22
Tue: I John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8
Wed: I John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Thu: Colossians 1:24-29; Luke 22:24-30
Fri: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-14; Matthew 2:13-23
Sat: I John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Sun: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21
Mon: I John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Tue: I John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
Wed: I John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Thu: I John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Fri: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-6;
Matthew 2:1-12
Sat: I John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-25
Sun: Isaiah 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew
3:13-17

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

So Christmas has come for us, who have been
making the sombre and rich trek through the
Advent readings. Out there, of course,
Christmas has been in full swing since about
October, as the magnates of Oxford St sought to
wrestle hard-earned money from our pockets to
buy unwanted trivia in the name of celebrating
the feast. And tomorrow all the advertisements
will be for equally expensive summer holidays.
Christmas will have ceased to exist in the
commercial world, and your neighbours may be
saying "Was that it, then?"

But for us Christmas comes *today*, on this
wonderful night, this wonderful day, when

heaven and earth are brought close together;
and it continues until 12th Night and the feast
of the Epiphany. Now we can *really* start to
celebrate. And what is it that we are
celebrating on this day? Above all it is the
astonishing fact that God is besotted with love
for his human race, and so we must drive from
our minds the grim thought that we humans
are so awful that God cannot possibly love
us.

But today is not, or should not be, a
celebration of our wealth, or a mindless orgy
of gluttony. For at the end of the life whose
beginning we recall today, there comes the
cross; many Christmas cards make this
important theological point by including a
reference to the crucifixion and suffering of
Jesus, which we shall be recalling not many
weeks from now. And it is already here, of
course, in the gospel readings of this time.

So in Luke's account of Jesus' birth, which is
the one we mainly read at this time, we are
reminded that God "sends the rich away
empty", while filling "the poor with good
things". And we discover that the good news is
not for the faceless Roman bureaucrats but for
the unimportant, like Joseph and Mary, who
can only produce a "feeding trough" in which
to put their new child, and who are warned that
"a sword shall pierce your heart". Then when,
in later years, Jesus goes missing, he has to be
told "your father and I have been in agony
looking for you." They lose him for three days,
a grim foreshadowing of that other three-day
gap in Jesus' life, right at the very end.
Likewise, Matthew tells us the story of the
Magi, and how their rather undiplomatic
question ("Where is the one born King of the
Jews?") has set King Herod on the path of
indiscriminate murder, and the holy family the
path trodden by so many refugees today.

And it is there in the best of the Christmas
carols, this look ahead to Jesus' death: "with
the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth
our Saviour holy". And that word "Saviour"
carries with it the unmistakable hint that this is
a costly enterprise, ending in death. So what
are we to say to all this? At least this: it is a
great feast on whose celebration we have
started today, and we are right to make a good
deal of it, but not at any price whatever: where
today are the "poor and mean and lowly"?

Fr Nicholas King SJ