

Teen Confirmation 2024

The next programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation (teens aged 14+) begins on the 14th January 2024 - Sundays from 10:30—11:30 am.
The celebration: 9th June 2024
To register, please contact us: farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion programme 2024

Start Date: 14/01/2024 -Sundays 10:30-11:30
Celebration: **14/07/2024**
The programme is designed for children who are in year three of school 23/24. If you wish your child to take part, please contact Leninha Assis to request a form.
farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

Churches Together in Westminster AGM

This will take place at 6pm on Monday 22nd January in the Arrupe Hall at 114 Mount Street. The AGM will be followed by a talk entitled 'The Art of Believing' given by Fr Patrick van der Vorst. Everyone most welcome.

Laudate Deum Discussion

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith group will be meeting for a discussion on Pope Francis' Laudate Deum. The dates are:
Wednesday 17th January – Chapters 1 & 2
Wednesday 21st February – Chapters 3 & 4
Wednesday 20th March – Chapters 5 & 6
1.30pm – 3pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1EP.
For more information, contact woodhousesopten@btinternet.com.

Prayers for Good Counsel Network

On Friday 12th January, the eve of the 27th anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

VACANCY: Director of the Catholic Union

The Catholic Union, which represents the views of lay Catholics to the Government and Parliament, is looking for a new Director. Please see the job description at "Jobs" on the Catholic Union website www.catholicunion.org.uk.
Deadline 15 January 2024.

Monthly Memorial Prayer Vigil for refugees and asylum-seekers

On the 3rd Monday of every month outside the Home Office SW1P 4DF from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Praying for:
*Those who died trying to reach the UK
*Victims of current wars
*Those in detention & who are homeless
*The UK to be a more welcoming nation
Sign up to receive email news & alerts of changes or cancellations at: homeofficevigil@gmail.com

Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners is a confidential telephone helpline service. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, it has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. 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, the helpline is staffed by a professional team of volunteers who are trained to signpost callers to other services and agencies.
Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk.
Operating three days a week from 4pm-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free on **0800 448 0704** For further information please email us at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or visit our website at www.CatholicListeners.com.
Catholic Listeners are here to listen.

Welcome

If this is your first time here, we would like to especially welcome you to Farm Street, our vibrant and engaging Catholic parish in the heart of London.
We aim to welcome all who come to our church to share in our faith and fellowship. Please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy. You will always be most welcome here.
Fr. Dominic Robinson, SJ
Parish Priest



Jesuit Church of The Immaculate Conception

FARM STREET

Welcome to Farm Street Church, our vibrant and engaging Catholic Parish in the heart of London

www.farmstreet.org.uk



The Epiphany of the Lord

7th January 2024

YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

RESPONSE

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

ACCLAMATION

We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

COMMUNION

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

PARISH OFFICE

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

TELEPHONE: 020 7529 4829

E-MAIL: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH CLERGY

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

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Michael Barnes SJ; Fr David Birchall SJ;
Fr Peter Gallagher SJ

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

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

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

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

MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 8:00 | 13:05 | 18:00
Saturday: 8:00 | 18:00 (vigil)
Sunday: 8:00 | 09:30 (Family) | 11:00 (Solemn), 12:30 | 17:30 | 19:00 (Young Adult, 18-35)
Join us for a coffee after the 9:30 and 11:00 Mass.

All Masses can be viewed on our livestreaming page
<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday: 12:00-13:00

CONFESSIONS

Monday to Friday: 12:00 – 12:55
Saturday: 10:00 to 12:00; 17:45 – 17:55
Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment



EPIPHANY

What are we to say about this remarkable feast, which brings the Christmas season to an end? One thing I think we should certainly say is that God behaves in very unexpected ways. King Herod would entirely agree with this verdict. In today's gospel, which is the story of the feast of Epiphany ("Showing Forth" or "Manifestation"), we notice the title of these strange visitors: "Magi", a word that probably means astrologers; but we need to notice that they have got it right, so they are "the real thing". If they say that someone has been born "King of the Judeans", then that is exactly what we have here.

We also notice that Herod believes that they are telling the truth. But we are not to suppose that he is about to act appropriately. The very name of "Herod" is a byword for entirely inappropriate behaviour. So we watch the story unfold. And we take aboard Herod's reaction: "he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him". If you read all the way through Matthew's gospel, you will find, right at the end, that the disturbance reappears, even though it is not the same word, when Jesus dies: "and look! The veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.". Then the disturbance continues: "the earth was shaken; and the rocks were split; and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of those who had fallen asleep were raised up, and they came out of the tombs after his resurrection and they went into the holy city and they appeared to many". So at the end of his life, just as at its beginning, Jesus causes a profound disturbance; and Matthew allows us to witness this at this dramatic moment of Epiphany. What does Matthew let us see in this extraordinary time of revelation? He shows us Herod, who is "summoning the chief priests and scribes of the people, and enquiring *exactly* where the Messiah was to be born." That is to say, he believed what these Magi were saying! And how does he react? Not, I regret to say in the way you might have hoped: for Matthew tells us that "he summoned the Magi secretly" (and we notice the depth of meaning in that innocent word "*secretly*"). Herod clearly does not intend anything good by his secrecy. So he listens to them as they tell him "exactly when the star appeared", and then "he sent them off to Bethlehem, saying, 'Off you go, and inquire precisely about the dear little child'. The word I have translated as "dear little child" is what you might call an "affectionate diminutive", which conveys absolutely nothing of his real feelings. We know that he is not going to put up with competition; so we watch, fearfully, as the Magi go off to Bethlehem, "rejoicing with a great joy" (which is what good people always do in the

bible). We notice that God is, as usual, acting quite unexpectedly, so we rejoice as "they see the dear little child with Mary his mother. And they fell down and worshipped him"; we might notice that word "worshipped" is in Matthew's gospel always what you do to God or to Jesus; so we can more or less see that it is going to work out all right. Then they give their treasures, "gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh", gold for royalty, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for a corpse. So we know right from this early moment that Jesus is going to die, and we wonder if his story is all going to be a disaster. However God is in the story, and the Magi were "warned in a dream not to go back to Herod". God's action is as simple as that: and the child is not destroyed. But we know, of course, that Death is coming to him. Then we watch these political simpletons going back to where they came from "by another route", and we breathe, at least for the moment, a sigh of relief. One thing you might do today is to sit and count up the number of unexpected things that God has done in this story. Then when you have done this you might try and calculate all the unexpected things that God has done for you in your life. What does all this tell you?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Happy New Year

The clergy and staff at Farm Street Church wish you a happy New Year. Whether you are a regular parishioner, an online friend, or a regular visitor, may God bless you throughout 2024.

Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are served in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30am, 11am and 5.30pm Sunday Masses (second & fourth Sunday only for 5.30pm). Do join us for tea, coffee, and fellowship!

Cana Lunch Café

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, a café lunchtime café operates in the Cana Lounge at 114 Mount Street. Freshly made sandwiches and soup are available for a very reasonable suggested donation. The café operates between 12 noon and 2pm. **The café has been closed for Christmas but will re-open on the 9th January.** We look forward to seeing you!

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: **The Epiphany of the Lord**
Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Mon: **The Baptism of the Lord**
Isaiah 55:1-11; Mark 1:7-11

Tue: **Feria**
I Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

Wed: **Feria**
I Samuel 3:1-20; Mark 1:29-39

Thu: **Feria**
I Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

Fri: **Feria; St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot**
(Friday abstinence)
I Samuel 8:4-22; Mark 2:1-12

Sat: **Feria; St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
I Samuel 9:1-10:1; Mark 2:13-17

Sun: **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
I Samuel 3:3-19; I Corinthians 6:13-20; John 1:35-42

Prayer intentions

Please consider asking for particular prayer intentions at Mass and the lamp before Our Lady of Farm Street. Contact the Parish Office or speak to the sacristan for information on how to make your requests. Details of Mass intentions are on the notice board outside of the sacristy.

The lamp this week is lit for enlightenment in teaching and working with poor children.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Ian Bookey, Marie Carroll Copestake, Felicity Ann Croft, Kyllikki Edelshain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Andrea Kelly, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigussie, Ottilie, Graziella Pirovano, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Ian Rice, George Tabor, Francis Walsh, Natalie Williams, Anna Wright, & Michael Wymes *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. *Requiescant in pace*

Solemn Evensong for

Week of Prayer of Christian Unity

Solemn Evensong will be celebrated at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, at 3.30pm on Sunday 21st January. The preacher will be The Reverend Dr Robin Hill, minister of Gladsmuir Kirk, Edinburgh. All most welcome.

Icon Exhibition – On Earth as it is in Heaven

An exhibition of icons and contemporary art by Irina Bradley will be displayed in the Ground Floor Gallery at 114 Mount Street from 2nd December to the end of January 2024. 10am-7pm, Monday to Friday; 9am – 3pm Saturday; By appointment on Sunday. www.irinabradley.com

An Invitation

Dr Irina Bradley requests the pleasure of your company at a reception and charity raffle for the On Earth as it is in Heaven icon and modern art exhibition to aid the homeless and disadvantaged at the Church of the Immaculate Conception Mayfair 114 Mount St, London W1K 3AH on **Saturday 13th of January** from 18.30-21:30
R.S.V.P. to irinabradley@hotmail.com

Icon Blessings

On the Sunday the 28th January, we will be welcoming Fr Stefan Ponjarac from the Serbian Orthodox Community to bless the icons currently on display in the ground floor gallery. The blessing will take place after the 11am Mass. These icons make up exhibition 'On Earth as it is in Heaven' which displays works by Dr Irina Bradley.

How to be a Synodal Church

Pope Francis calls for all the baptised to be involved in the Synodal Process – are you? Join people from a range of parishes and backgrounds for a day of reflection, conversation, and action to prepare for the October 2024 Synodal Assembly in Rome.

Saturday 10th February 2024

10am (refreshments) for 10.30am – 4pm
Light refreshments provided – bring a packed lunch

The Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street

RSVP – Farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
020 8986 0807