

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Fifth Sunday of Lent **(Passion Sunday)** **21st March 2021**

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

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

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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

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.

SARAH EVERARD

As this article is being written the murder of Sarah Everard is dominating the news. Such incidents are always shocking, but this particular case has produced a much greater reaction. It has touched the experience and fears of many women. It has exposed a reality in which men and women are not, in practice, equal. In terms of this reaction, there are parallels with way in which death of George Floyd in the United States produced a reaction against the unequal treatment highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement and a worldwide reaction against racism in general. In both cases there is a long history of attitudes and behaviour underlying the injustice involved behind the resulting protest movements.

There is a way in which we can be grateful for the awareness expressed in these protest movements. In the past an attitude that accepted that sexual violence and harassment of women was part of life was not challenged in this way. The “Me Too Movement” was part of a longer term movement which has made this attitude much less acceptable. Similarly, casual racism and discrimination were much more accepted as part of life when I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s. We can be grateful for progress made while being painfully aware that there is much more to do before equal respect is shown to everyone no matter what their race, gender, age, sexual orientation or social background.

As Pope Francis has highlighted in his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, this fundamental respect for each human being, created by and loved by God, is central not just to what it is to be a Christian but what it is to be human. There are challenges to the Church in expressing these values. In the one case, both the abuse crisis and attitudes to women within the Church have weakened the Church’s ability to speak out against sexual violence. In the other case, past association with colonialist violence and attitudes to non-western cultures have weakened the Church’s ability to speak out about racism. As a Church we come to these things as sinners in need of repentance but preaching the message of Jesus Christ who died for all. As individuals too, we need to examine our consciences. Have I always shown proper respect to people? Are there any groups towards I might have unacknowledged prejudices?

As Christians we also have another message. One which again is particularly challenging. Anger and protest are appropriate and understandable reactions. We cannot condone oppression, violence or

discrimination. However, while urging us to work to promote the equality of all human beings Pope Francis also talks about the way in which we seek to do this must fit with the Gospel we proclaim. Appropriate though they may be, the current protests have reinforced the polarisation which is characteristic of the world today. There are those who feel threatened by the promotion of equal rights, who feel they are losing out. As Christians we cannot simply write people off as racist or misogynist. They too are entitled to respect as human beings. Often there is a very real experience of exclusion, suffering and injustice being expressed. We need to listen and to show respect as we seek to build a more just world.

Fr Chris Pedley, S.J.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fifth Sunday of Lent (*Passion Sunday*)
Mon: Lent feria
Tue: Lent feria; St Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Wed: Lent feria
Thu: The Annunciation of the Lord
Fri: Lent feria
Sat: Lent feria
Sun: Palm Sunday

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33
Mon: Daniel 13:1-62; John 8:1-11
Tue: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30
Wed: Daniel 3:14-28; John 8:31-42
Thu: Isaiah 7:10-8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
Fri: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
Sat: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56
Sun: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

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

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at Farm Street Church every Friday at 12 noon during the season of Lent. This can be attended either in person or via the livestream page on our website.

TRIDUUM AND EASTER 2021

MAUNDY THURSDAY 1st April

No morning Masses.

Confessions: 12 noon – 1pm

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

In accordance with Covid guidelines, there will be no altar of repose this year.

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April

Confessions: 12 noon – 1pm

12 noon: Stations of the Cross.

2pm & 4pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY 3rd April

Confessions: 10am – 12 noon

8.30pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April

Mass: 8am, 9.30am (Family), 11am (Latin), 12.30pm, 5.30pm

EASTER MONDAY to EASTER FRIDAY

5th April to 9th April

Church closed until 11am. Confessions at 12 noon to 1pm and Mass at 1.05pm only, after which the church will be closed.

The Farm Street Singers will provide music at Masses and services during the Triduum (except for Good Friday Stations of the Cross). All Masses and services will be open to the public and will be livestreamed on the Farm Street Church website.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

We would like to draw your attention to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which is currently requesting donations. The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal is a diocesan fund which supports work in areas relating to poverty and homelessness; marriage and family life; youth and evangelization; and education services. A tremendous amount of good work is achieved by projects funded by the Lenten Appeal, which in turn is supported by the generosity of donors. One example of this good work has been the meals provided to the homeless over the past year by Central London Catholic Churches which has, in part, been funded by a very generous grant from the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Poverty and inequality have risen significantly in London as a result of the pandemic, and this year the Lenten Appeal will focus particularly on families who are struggling to place food on the table.

We would encourage you to visit the following link (<https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal/>) to find out more about the Lenten Appeal.

National Day of Prayer

Tuesday 23rd March has been designated a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the UK entering the first national lockdown. Across the nation this is being commemorated with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are inviting us to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. At Farm Street Church, we will be responding to this invitation by exposing the Blessed Sacrament for adoration all day. Following the 8.30am Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until 1pm, and then re-exposed from 1.30pm to 6pm. All are welcome to visit the church throughout the day to pray in the presence of Our Lord. We will also be praying for a minute in silence at 12 noon. All invited to join us in this moment of silence either in the church or via the livestream page of our website.

Scripture Speaks

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." Hebrews 12:1-3

Fourth Annual Landings Lecture

The fourth annual Landings Lecture will take place on Friday 23rd April at 7pm. In previous years, the Landings Lectures have taken place at Farm Street Church, London. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the lecture will take place online via Zoom. The speaker this year is Dr Anna Rowlands, a lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Studies and deputy director of the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University of Durham. The theme she will be addressing is titled, '**Rebuilding the Church for a Change of Era; Pope Francis' vision in 'Fratelli Tutti'**'. If you would like to attend this talk, please book a place via the Eventbrite booking page <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-2021-landings-lecture-tickets-145306185713>. We do ask for a donation to attend this lecture, which will go to support the important work of Landings.

Encounters with Jesus in Lent

Farm Street Church and The Grosvenor Chapel are running a joint Lent reflection course titled 'Encounters with Jesus'. This is being held via Zoom at 8pm on six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on the 24th of February and concluding on the 31st March. The course will reflect on the encounters with Jesus experienced by people in the Gospels and will use the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola as a guide.

Each session will consist of 1.) A Brief Introduction, 2.) A Scriptural Reading, 3.) A 20-minute Guided Meditation on the Reading, 4.) Break out rooms to reflect on the Guided Meditation (20 minutes) with Facilitator in each Group 5.) Return to plenary and Final Prayers.

This Wednesday is Week 5, which will focus on the centurion's recognition of Jesus as the Son of God, recorded in Mark 15:33-39. The theme for the remaining week is:

Week 6. Mary at the tomb Jn 20: 11-18

If you would like to participate in this course, please contact the Parish Secretary at farmstreetoffice@redow.org.uk for the Zoom details. The course can be joined any stage, so no need to worry if you would like to join after missing several weeks.

Forty Martyrs Exhibition

An online exhibition on the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, put together by the British Province of the Society of Jesus Archives, in collaboration with the Curator of the Stonyhurst Collection and others, has been created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their canonisation. Drawing on the Province's extensive collection of papers and relics, it tells the remarkable story of the martyrs with short talks, text, and pictures. The result is a fascinating and beautifully presented exhibition, which is both educational and inspiring. The exhibition can be viewed at the following link <https://www.jesuitcollections.org.uk/>

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of March, Pope Francis encourages us to pray an intention for evangelization, particularly with regards to the sacrament of reconciliation. We pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

During the first Covid 19 lockdown in the Spring 2020, Companions of the Order of Malta and Westminster City Council worked in partnership to start a donation hub for the homeless. The aim was to streamline the donations available and produce a circular network where the necessary supplies were available to support vulnerable individuals being housed in the hotels and hostels and the street population.

35,000 items were sorted and packed at St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory from April to July and then delivered to the homeless. The donation hub opened again in November 2020, and we open to receive donations again.

Donation Hub location:

St Joseph's Hall, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR. .

Opening times for receiving donations:

Wednesday 2 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 6.30 – 8pm (by arrangement)

Saturday 10.30am – 2pm.

Please only deliver donations at these times.

Types of Donations:

Toiletries – only unopened items please
Men and women's clothes (no children's clothes please)

Entertainment items e.g. books – fact or fiction/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items (please ensure the books are appropriate eg No recipe books)

Thank you very much for any support you can give.

Contact: Kate MacKenzie

at London.companionsofmalta@gmail.com if you have any queries.

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

Here to Listen: A virtual event for young people in Westminster to talk about their concerns
Monday, 22nd March, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Are you a young person (aged 14-20) living in Westminster? If so, Westminster City Council would like to hear how you are feeling coming out of Lockdown. Are you concerned about your wellbeing? Worried about safety? Anxious about going to college or getting a job?

This is a chance to talk to the Council, youth organisations, the police and others about what's worrying you, and how we could support you more.

The council does a range of things you may not know about. Like helping people get jobs and training, gain new experiences, or support you with concerns around safety, mental health, or problems in school. Join this workshop and help make these services better for young people across Westminster.

Those who join also have the chance to win a shopping voucher of up to £50.

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/here-to-hear-tickets-145240031845>

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

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). Further information can be found on the relevant section of the Government's website.

Scripture Speaks

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." II Timothy 4:7,8

Advert

"A young Catholic who lost his job because of the pandemic needs a job and would appreciate an opportunity. He is available for multiple tasks such as house repairs, walking the dogs, babysitting, Spanish and French lessons, cleaning, helping in the kitchen, sharing a conversation, shopping etc. For more information, contact Andrés Alexis Gonzalez Argüello at gonzalez.andres.virtus@gmail.com"
Farm Street Church will occasionally accept adverts for the newsletter at the discretion of the parish priest. We do not verify the content of adverts.

Supporting the Parish

We are grateful to everyone who has continued to financially support the church during the 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 can 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 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. Thank you again for your support.