

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

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

O Come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

RESPONSE

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

ACCLAMATION

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

COMMUNION

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 5th February 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
Email: farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

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

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

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

Piano Duet Recital “Quo Vadis: Where are you going?”

In aid of ‘The Farm Street Church Conference of the SVP soup run’ and the ‘Central London Catholic Churches, Farm Street Homeless Service’

Join us on Thursday, 2 March 2023, 7.15pm at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1K 3AH for a Piano Duet Recital “Quo Vadis: Where are you going?”, with Imma Setiadi and Nigel Clayton (piano four-hands) and a guest narrator.

The inspiration behind the theme of this concert is ‘walking’. Yes, our day-to-day walk in the street, to our workplace, to the stations, the hustle bustle of our daily life which often leaves us little time for reflection. What happens if we take the day-to-day noise away and then go for a walk? What will we see and hear? Do we know where we are going?

Imma and Nigel will take you on a musical journey through piano duet music by Bernstein, Poulenc, Schubert, Fauré, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Leroy Anderson, Dvorak and Brahms. This will be interspersed with specially written narration, pictures, and soundscapes, to bring alive both an exterior and interior walk.

We are grateful to the support of Fr Dominic Robinson and Farm Street Church for hosting the concert in this magnificent Church.

Entry by donation at the door, proceed will go towards supporting the works of ‘The Farm Street Church Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul soup run’, ‘Central London Catholic Churches, Farm Street Homeless Service’, and the development of ‘Musical Rainbow Project’. Refreshment to follow after the concert. For further details or enquiries, contact the Parish Office at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk or musicalrainbowproject@gmail.com

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.

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.

The Heavens Proclaim: Astronomy and the Vatican

Sunday 12 February 2023, 4-5pm, St Mary’s Church, 4 Holly Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 6QU

The roots of the Vatican Observatory go back to the Gregorian Reform of the Calendar in 1582, and it has been part of an extensive history of Church support for astronomy — Galileo to the contrary! As scientists supported by the Church, its modern mission is just to do good science. In the joy and beauty of what we discover, we reveal the presence of God in the things He has made; and in the process, show there is no inherent conflict between science and religion. We’ll look into the history of this activity, including what’s been done at the Vatican Observatory today.

Br Guy Consolmagno SJ is the Director of Specola Vaticana (the Vatican Observatory). He is an American research astronomer, physicist and President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation, the recipient of numerous awards and an author among other achievements.

It is with great pleasure that we are delighted to announce that Br Guy Consolmagno SJ will deliver his talk in person. Come and join us for what promises to be a fascinating insight into Astronomy, beauty and faith from a leading scientist.

If you are planning on attending in person please email the Parish Administrator at hampstead@rcdow.org.uk to book your place. You are welcome to livestream the lecture by visiting <https://www.churchservices.tv/hampstead>

Solid Foundations Course Part I/III The School of Mary

Introduction into Spiritual Life

This Course draws us closer to the Lord in a very real way through:

- Identifying the goal of our Spiritual Life and its stages.
- practical advice on how to ‘connect’ with Jesus and His Word ‘heart to heart’.
- clear teaching and graphic illustrations.
- learning what deep contemplation is and the discernment linked to it.

Venue: St. Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DJ.

Dates: Tuesday evenings, 6 pm – 8 pm :
21st, 28th Feb, 7th, 14th, 21st March, 18th and 25th April 2023.

Cost: Suggested £12 per lesson (£84). Tea and coffee are provided.

Contact: To register or further enquiries please email: francescacrocker@outlook.com

Tel: Francesca Crocker - 07527907642

Website: www.schoolofmary.org

Personal Advertisement

“I am an Indian Catholic studying at Portsmouth University. I’m urgently looking for a part-time job in London. I have valid student visa with work permit. Any kind of job would do. Please contact me on stephmacwan@yahoo.com or 07442091768. Thanks for your help and prayers – Stephy Macwan”
Displayed by request.



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Last Sunday we continued our reading of Matthew's gospel, with the Beatitudes, that astonishing opening to the Sermon on the Mount, with its remarkable singling out of the people whom Jesus wishes to "congratulate". We shall be having the Sermon read to us every Sunday between then and the beginning of Lent, so it seems worthwhile to say something about that sermon today, to help your prayerful listening to this extraordinary presentation of Jesus' teachings.

Matthew seems to want to draw our attention to this collection, and to others as well. For at the end of each of his five collections of Jesus' teaching, he puts a little marker, as follows (and I invite you to look at each of them in your New Testament):

7:28 "and it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching" (The Sermon on the Mount)

11:1 "and it happened when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went away from there, to teach and preach in their cities" (The Missionary Discourse)

13:53 "and it happened that when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there" (The Parable Discourse)

19:1 "and it happened when Jesus had finished these words, he went away from the Galilee and came to the regions of Judaea, across the Jordan" (the Church Discourse)

26:1 "and it happened that when Jesus had finished all these words, he said to his disciples..." (the Last Discourse).

Do you see how Matthew singles out these discourses? I suspect that he had Mark's gospel open in front of him, and felt that although Mark often referred to Jesus as a teacher, and to one of his principal activities as "teaching", he hardly ever actually gives the reader a taste of what he taught.

Of these five "discourses", the best-known is the Sermon on the Mount, which, as I say, we shall be reading on the Sundays leading up to the beginning of Lent. What might you look out for as you listen? Obviously the most striking part is what we call the "Beatitudes", which we heard last Sunday, with that extraordinary singling out of the most unlikely people ("poor in spirit", "mourners", "gentle", "hungry and thirsty for justice", "merciful", "pure in heart", "peacemakers", and "persecuted and...reviled"). This is an electrifying introduction, and you would do well to go back to it sometime this week. But there is more: today's gospel, for example, speaks to us of "salt" and "light", as indispensable qualities for Jesus' disciples. In what way do you think that you are or might be "light" and "salt" to the world around you?

After that the "Sermon" might seem to fall apart slightly, as it becomes difficult to see the structure of it, as we go through the so-called "antitheses": "you have heard it said...but I say to you..." where Jesus offers his own take on the Jewish Law. What I should like to

suggest to you is that the Sermon is given its structure by the prayer that comes right at its centre, what we call the "Lord's Prayer", which is part of Jesus' affirmation of the pillars of Jewish religious practice, almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Here he establishes a clear pattern, a warning to us not to do all these things in order to gain human admiration. Instead we are to do them with our focus entirely on God as Father. So I suggest to you that if you want to find out how this great Sermon hangs together, you draw out the links to the different petitions in the teaching of the remainder of the Sermon. And then remember those links every time that you say the Lord's Prayer. Now the heart of the matter is the great "Fatherhood of God". If you should find yourself reading the Sermon in these coming weeks, I suggest that you count the number of references to "your Heavenly Father" (they start at 5:48).

And finally, you might like to have a look at how the Sermon ends (because that could give us a clue about what is going on). It draws two contrasting pictures, which you will find at 7:24-27. First he mentions those who are attentive disciples: "So everyone who listens to these words of mine and performs them, will be like a wise man, who built his house upon the Rock". Then, by contrast, there is the other category: "those who listen to these words of mine and do not perform them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house on sand", with the inevitable result.

Will you try and read the Sermon on the Mount this week, and try to decide whether you are currently building on sand or on rock?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Marie Carroll Copestake, Charles Curran, Maggie Danby, Lady Antonia Fraser, 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. Fr Michael Beattie SJ, Paul Johnson
Requiescant in pace

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).

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	644	Alleluia sing to Jesus
Offertory	685	All things bright and beautiful
Communion	938	Soul of my Saviour
Recessional	456	Christ is made the sure foundation

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: St Paul Miki SJ & Companions, Martyrs; & Bp Charles Spinola SJ, Sebastian Kumura SJ & Companions, Peter Kibe Kasui & Companions
Tue: Feria
Wed: Feria; St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita
Thu: Feria
Fri: St Scholastica, Virgin
(Friday abstinence)
Sat: Our Lady of Lourdes
Sun: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Readings

Sun: Isaiah 58:7-10; I Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16
Mon: Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56
Tue: Genesis 1:20-2:4; Mark 7:1-13
Wed: Genesis 2:4-17; Mark 7:14-23
Thu: Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30
Fri: Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37
Sat: Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10
Sun: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21; I Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

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 by request for the intention of a successful business sale and guidance for the future.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year observed on Wednesday 22nd February. Mass with imposition of ashes will be celebrated at the usual times of 8am, 1.05pm, and 6pm. Organ music will accompany the 1.05pm Mass and the Farm Street Choir will accompany the 6pm Mass. Lent is a solemn period in the Church's calendar and a good start will help all of us as we observe this penitential season. Due to its penitential significance, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. All Catholics are bound to abstain from meat and Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. Further details about fasting and abstinence can be found at www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Penance/Abstinence.pdf



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.

Below is a sampling of some upcoming events. 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 Federica Fiore at ffiore@jesuit.org.uk.

On the Mystery (and Reality) of the Church 1-day course

Saturday, 18 February 2023

10:00am - 4:00pm

London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street

Course overview

What is the Church, exactly? It has certainly been talked about in lots of different ways: as both the 'body' of Christ and the 'bride of Christ'; as a 'perfect society' and as the 'pilgrim people of God'. And people have very different encounters with church: vibrant, life-restoring encounters; dreary, mundane encounters; sometimes even terrifying, destructive encounters. Each week, millions of Christians profess their belief in 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic church' - but what does it mean to say that the church is 'holy', when is it sinful, or 'one' when it is divided and at odds with itself?

This course introduces 'ecclesiology' - the theology of Church - in view of these, and other questions. We ask what Church is, what it should be, and what it has to do with the other essential elements of Christian belief. Participants will explore some of the most influential figures that have shaped recent ecclesiology, read some key theological texts, and reflect on how to connect these ideas with their own experience of, and encounters with the Church.

Why Believe? Defending and Explaining the Faith

Tuesday, 28 February 2023 to Tuesday 28th March 2023
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Online - Zoom

In this course we take a hard look at some of the most difficult questions that are asked of the Christian faith, so as to think about it more clearly, explain it more persuasively and defend it more effectively. For example, there seem to be some bad reasons to believe in God, but are there any really good reasons? And even if there are some good reasons to support belief in God, aren't there also lots of reasons not to believe? What about the thought that belief in God is irrelevant to the most important things in our lives, anyway? Can't people be 'good without God'? Why bother trying to resolve questions that lie beyond the limits of our understanding?

In each week of the course we take a look at one problematic question or an objection to Christian belief, and see what kinds of response might usefully be put forward in response.