

JUBILEE 175

SAVE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

May 1 Jubilee Concert with our own Bobby Chen, piano, featuring the music of Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin and Liszt. This is a fundraiser for the Jubilee 175 Campaign, booking details available later this month.

June 7 Summer Party with dancing, at 114 Mount Street. A buffet supper will be generously provided by The Connaught Hotel and Claridge's, with a cash bar. This is also a fundraiser for the Jubilee 175 Campaign, booking details will be available in Easter Week.

June 9 Parish Picnic in Mount Street Gardens, following the 9.30 Mass and continuing into the late afternoon. Open to all, people are invited to bring a dish (main course, salad, dessert) to share. Pimm's Cups will be available for sale.

July 31 Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving on the Solemnity of Saint Ignatius, with Bishop Nicholas Hudson, principal celebrant. This Mass will celebrate the opening of the church on 31 July, 1849.

September 21 Ecumenical pilgrimage to Canterbury, with our friends at Grosvenor Chapel. The day will begin and end at Canterbury West Station, with pilgrims free to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Canterbury. There will be no charge for the day.

October 5 Jubilee Ball at the Savile Club, Brook Street. The evening will include a Champagne reception, dinner with wine, live auction, raffle and dancing until 1am. Booking details will be available in the late summer and all proceeds will go to Farm Street Church.

November 2 Walking tour of London sites important to the history of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), from the sixteenth century up to the present day.

December 9 Solemn Pontifical Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, with Vincent Cardinal Nichols, principal celebrant. This Mass will close our Jubilee Year of celebration and thanksgiving.

Job Vacancy

The London Jesuit Centre and the Jesuit Young Adults Ministries are looking for a Marketing and Communications person to maintain their websites, publicise their work, and produce short videos for social media. This is a full-time post with two days a week work for the Jesuit Young Adults Ministries and three days with the London Jesuit Centre.

Closing Date: 2nd April 2024

To apply, visit londonjesuitcentre.org/get-involved/jobs

'Politics and religion: on the same path?' - a talk by the Lord Speaker

Wed, 20 Mar 2024 at 6.30pm at 114 Mount Street.

Why does politics matter? And what does the future of politics look like?

The Speaker of the House of Lords, Lord McFall, will seek to answer these big questions as part of a talk hosted by international development organisation Jesuit Missions.

Join us in the stunning Aula Magna at the London Jesuit Centre for what promises to be an engaging evening, which will include a Q&A session and light refreshments.

Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite.

Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Catholic Association pilgrimage to Lourdes, which includes the Stonyhurst pilgrimage, will take place from 23 to 30 August 2004. All are welcome. For more information, email contact@catholicassociation.co.uk or ask Fr Nicholas King.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from the 19th to 26th July. For more information about this, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or speak to Fr Dominic.

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

18th March 2024

YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

RESPONSE

A pure heart create for me, O God.

ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.*

COMMUNION

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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 Thursday: 12:00-13:00

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent: 12:30-13:00

CONFESSIONS

Monday to Friday: 12:00 – 12:55

Saturday: 11:00 to 12:00; 17:45 – 17:55

Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment



THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS: ISOLATED AND ALONE

So We are approaching the last days of Lent, a time which put us all in mind of the accounts of the passion of Jesus given in the gospels. This year we shall hear St Mark's account on Palm Sunday and St John's, as we always do, on Good Friday.

In his book, "Meeting God in Mark", Dr Rowan Williams, the former archbishop of Canterbury, underlines some of the specific characteristics of Mark's account of the last days of Jesus, an account which takes up about one third of his entire gospel. Here is a summary, inadequate as it is, of the points he makes.

Mark presents Jesus as being progressively left more alone. He is rejected by more and more groups and individuals: the disciples run away from him, Peter deserts and denies him, and the soldiers abuse him.

Everything is stacked against Jesus. He has no hope of getting out of this alive. As with the victims in a Kafka novel, Dr Williams says, Jesus is "locked into the workings of a meaningless, nonsensical, but completely irresistible system of power", a power set on destruction.

Jesus is so entirely alone that even in the Garden of Gethsemane, he receives no response to his prayers. His last words are, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

This is all in contrast with the way John tells the story of the Passion. Mark has none of the "sustained drama" of John, none of the "subtly developed irony that is maintained throughout the whole story". He wants us to see Jesus alone; Jesus the victim of the powers operating against him.

What especially struck me in Dr Williams' analysis of the passion according to Mark, is his highlighting the response of Jesus to the high priest's question, "Are you the Messiah?". Jesus says, "I am". This is hugely significant. God reveals his name, "I am", when he speaks to Moses. Whereas John has scattered "I am" sayings throughout his gospel, Dr Williams notes, Mark has this only once. "Then and only then, in his loneliness and isolation, with no hope of escape from a dreadful fate, God declares himself present".

The words of Jesus which follow "I am" are so important as well. He says "... and you will see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of the power, advancing on the clouds of heaven". Far from being defeated, in these events the authority of Jesus is being fully revealed.

How important this can be for our lives and the lives of those round about us! So often we come across people whose experiences are very dark. It may be that they, or we, are grappling with a serious illness. This Lent we have been drawn again and again to the sufferings

of the people in Ukraine and Gaza. It is important for us to remember that in Mark's gospel, God reveals himself in Jesus when Jesus himself is at the very limits of human experience. When we, or those we love, or so many others, are at the extreme end of human suffering, Jesus declares, "I am".

As Dr Williams says, "God has chosen to be, and to be manifest, at that lowest, weakest point of human experience. And so, the poor and helpless, or the condemned and the isolated, reading this story told from the victim's point of view, can know that God is with them, and that the God who is with them cannot be defeated or deposed from his Godhead."

Personally, I have found what Dr Williams writes very helpful, As I say, this summary is inadequate and I recommend you read the whole book. "Meeting God in Mark", by Rowan Williams, SPCK, 2014.

Fr Michael Holman SJ

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!

Liturgical Calendar

Sun:	Fifth Sunday of Lent Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33
Mon:	Lent feria; St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor Daniel 13:1-62; John 8:1-11
Tue:	St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary II Samuel 7:4-16; Luke 2:41-51
Wed:	Lent feria Daniel 3:14-28; John 8:31-42
Thu:	Lent feria Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59
Fri:	Lent feria (Friday abstinence) Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
Sat:	Lent feria Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56
Sun:	Palm Sunday Isiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 15:1-39

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 by Tadi Kassaya in thanksgiving to the Lord for all her blessings.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: King Charles, Debra Minty Baker, Ian Bookey, Marie Carroll Copestake, Margaret Cartledge, Felicity Ann Croft, Natalie Dennehy-Caddick, Kyllikki Edelsheim, Christian Engelhart, Maria Fernandez, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Andrea Kelly, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigussie, Otilie, Graziella Pirovano, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Ian Rice, George Tabor, Francis Walsh, Natalie Williams, John Wooloughan, 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.

Peter's Way of the Cross

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a performance of *Peter's Way of the Cross* at Farm Street Church on the evening of **Friday March 22nd at 7pm** preceded by Mass at 6pm. Peter's Way of the Cross is a 60-minute reflection which imagines St. Peter following the path of Jesus on his way to Calvary whilst reflecting on his journey as a disciple and as a witness to Christ's teachings. Peter begins his journey confused by the events of Gethsemane, the trial and is distressed and ashamed by his denial. At each station, the scene is described, and Peter reflects on Christ's teaching or actions from the three years of ministry. In each case the gospel passage used has been set to music.

The words were written by Bernard Lavery KSG and the music composed by Giovanni Marseglia BM. The work has been performed in Westminster Cathedral, Killarney Cathedral, The Old Bailey and many parishes in the diocese. It was also used as the centrepiece of an evening celebration during the 2017 Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes and was enthusiastically received.

This event is free and does not require booking. A collection will be taken to support the work of The Westminster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage. His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, will be in attendance.

9.30am Mass hymns

<i>Entrance</i>	969	Lord of all hopefulness
<i>Offertory</i>	604	Lord accept the gifts we offer
<i>Communion</i>	212	All ye who seek a comfort sure
<i>Recessional</i>	801	Love divine all love's excelling

Walsingham Pilgrimage

The Farm Street Church annual pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place this year on Saturday 11th May. More information to come.

Holy Week and Easter 2024

In preparation for Holy Week, confessions will be heard in the church from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday 23rd March.

Palm Sunday, 25th March

Normal schedule, with addition of United Service with Exchange of Palms at 10.45am at the palm tree in Mount Street Gardens.

Monday in Holy Week, 25th March

Normal schedule and 7pm sung Tenebrae.

Tuesday in Holy Week, 26th March

Normal schedule and 7pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

Spy Wednesday, 27th March

Normal schedule and 7.15pm Aid to the Church in Need Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

12 noon - Confessions (1 hour)
6pm - Confessions
7pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Watch of the Passion until Midnight.
11.45pm - Compline

Good Friday, 29th March

11.30am - Confessions
12 noon - Stations of the Cross
2.30pm - Confessions
3pm - Liturgy of the Passion with veneration of the True Cross
6.30pm - Confessions
7pm - Seven Last Words followed by veneration of a relic of the True Cross.

Holy Saturday, 30th March

11am - Confessions (1 hour)
6pm - Confessions
7pm - Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, 31st March

Normal schedule.

Easter Week, Monday 1st April to Friday 5th April

Church opens at 11am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions at 12 noon. Mass at 1.05pm. The church closes after the 1.05pm Mass

Saturday in Easter Week, 6th April and Low Sunday, 7th April

Normal schedule

Monday 8th April

Normal schedule

Tuesday 9th April to Friday 12th April

Due to a Jesuit Province meeting, there will be reduced services this week. Mass will be celebrated in the church at 1.05pm only.

Saturday 13th April

Normal schedule resumes.