

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



First Sunday of Advent 28th November 2021

PARISH CLERGY

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

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Fr Laco Sulik SJ; Fr Michael Bossy SJ

PARISH STAFF

George McCombe, Parish Secretary
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

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SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin,
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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)

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; 5.45pm – 6pm
Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

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

YEAR C

ENTRY

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have
trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my
enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you
be put to shame.

RESPONSE

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

ACCLAMATION

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

COMMUNION

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

ADVENT THOUGHTS

Quite suddenly today we find ourselves erupting into the wonderful season of Advent. And the first thing that must be said about it is that Advent is not Christmas, even though it was back in August that you saw the first advertisement to book for your Christmas Dinner, (and those Christmas illuminations on Oxford Street have been blazing for some while now. For us, though, it is not yet Christmas, but a sober time of preparing for the Coming (Adventus in Latin) of Jesus. There are of course three such comings: his first coming, God's Enfleshment, or Incarnation; then there is the "Second Coming", at the end of time, when we come to the predestined end; about that, though it is clearly expected in the whole of the New Testament, there really is not very much that we can say. Finally, there is the third coming, which is our individual encounter with Jesus; and this might be at any time. What is essential here is that we be on the alert for the signs of his presence, and that we build a profound relationship with him. Without such a relationship, it is hard to make sense of life.

So how are we to prepare? Well, the Church gives us some clues in the shape of the extraordinarily rich readings that we are offered in the four weeks that lie ahead, reminding us that we have not got there yet. The readings are different in each week of Advent, and roughly what you might say is that in the first week we are invited to reflect on "Healing for the Broken"; and you will notice how the readings for the week touch on that theme. Then the readings in Week Two offer a "Vision of the Future". The readings for Week 3 might be given the umbrella title of "Hope for what is to come", which is not quite the same as Week 2. Finally, the fourth week of Advent offers "A glimpse of God's plan". And in that week, of course, from December 17th onwards, the church sings the "Great O" antiphons at Evening Prayer: O Sapientia, O Adonai, O Radix Jesse, O Clavis David, O Oriens, O Rex Gentium. O Emmanuel, as a way of guiding our prayer for each day. What I suggest that you might like to do is look in advance at the readings for each Sunday; you might find it interesting to think how *you* would reach on those readings next Sunday (and perhaps compare that with what you hear from the pulpit on the day!). Or, to go even deeper into the mystery, why not read the readings for each weekday on the night before, and use them to guide your prayer? You might

perhaps turn in prayer to the Lord sometimes and ask "Why did you say that? What is the message for me today?". This can be a very rich way of getting the deepest possible understanding of the Advent time.

And one last thing about this wonderful season: it is a sombre time, when we wear purple, the colour of mourning. We should take that quite seriously; for "out there", the sellers are inducing us to buy things that we do not really want, at prices we cannot really afford. Out there, they are all dressed in gold, the colour of rejoicing. Our rejoicing, however, does not start properly until Christmas Day, when Christ will be born for us. Whereas the commercial Christmas ends abruptly on Boxing Day, which is when the advertisements suddenly switch to selling summer holidays. Meanwhile you and I are invited to go deeper into the mystery of Christmas, with the "Twelve Days" that take us up to the feast of the Epiphany. Then the second part of Christmas goes up to the Baptism of Jesus, after which we are plunged back into the green vestments and dour moods of "Ordinary Time". But if that is too much for you, there are places (including the City of Rome, so I am informed) where Christmas only comes to an end on February 2nd, the feast of the Purification. So there is room to expand your Christmas; but only if you take Advent seriously.

May I wish you a very happy Advent?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Advent Raffle

As we did last year, we shall be holding an online raffle in aid of the Catholic Children's Society and Wateraid. The Catholic Children's Society were extremely grateful for the help that they were able to give destitute families with the £2400 we sent them last year, and have asked us for our help once more. Prizes include vouchers for Restaurant 34 Mayfair and the Royal Albert Hall, Dinner at Delfinos, memberships of art galleries and of the Chelsea Physic Garden. For more information and to buy tickets visit go.rallyup.com/farmstreetaffle2021. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 20th December.

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

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: First Sunday of Advent
Mon: Advent feria
Tue: St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland
Wed: St Edmund Campion SJ & Companions, Martyrs
Thu: Advent feria
Fri: St Francis Xavier, Priest
Sat: Advent feria; St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
Sun: Second Sunday of Advent

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2; Luke 21:25-36
Mon: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
Tue: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22
Wed: Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37
Thu: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21-27
Fri: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Sat: Isaiah 30:19-26; Matthew 9:35-10:8
Sun: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sunday Refreshments Suspended

Refreshments served in the Arrupe Hall after the Sunday 9.30am and 11am Mass are currently suspended due to refurbishment work on the ground-floor kitchen. Refreshments after the 5.30pm Masses (2nd and 4th Sundays only) are still taking place.

It's Good To Talk

Are you feeling lost and alienated? Has COVID left you feeling isolated and vulnerable? And have the many months of lockdown created a sense of spiritual reawakening for you? Would you like to explore these feelings and share them with others who are also experiencing the same thing?

It's Good to Talk is where you can discuss issues about faith, and about a desire to belong to a community. *It's Good to Talk* is a non-judgemental, lay-led space. The meetings are held at Farm Street. Each meeting is informal and welcoming, with hospitality at its core. Contact Ruby at landingsouth@gmail.com for further details.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of November, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for people who suffer from depression. Let us pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Catholic Union Craigmyle Lecture

The annual Craigmyle Lecture, organised by the Catholic Union, will be taking place in Farm Street Church on **Tuesday 30th November at 6.45pm**. The speaker is the Rt Hon The Lord Bird MBE (John Bird). Lord Bird is a Crossbench peer and is perhaps best well known as the founder of *The Big Issue* newspaper. Lord Bird's work focuses on dismantling the root causes of poverty and homelessness in the UK, and the well-being of future generations on which subject he has a Private Member's Bill in the House of Lords. He also speaks on social enterprise, social mobility, literacy and the Arts.

The Lecture will be followed by a reception in the Arrupe Hall.

Registration is required to attend this lecture. Please register with the Catholic Union office at info@catholicunion.org.uk or on 020 8749 1321.

You can also register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/catholic-union-13493819133>

The Lecture will be live streamed on <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>.

ALL WELCOME!

World AIDS Day Mass

The 6pm Mass on Wednesday 1st December will be celebrated to mark World AIDS Day. The theme this year is 'Equal Care: Listening to Every Voice'. The Mass will be celebrated by Monsignor Martin Hayes, Vicar General of Westminster Diocese, and will be followed afterwards by a reception in the London Jesuit Centre. All are most welcome to attend.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our Patronal Feast will be celebrated on Wednesday 8th December, with a Sung Mass at **7pm** (not 6pm). This will be followed by a reception, although the exact details of this are still to be determined in light of the existing Covid situation. Low Mass will also be celebrated at the usual times of 8am and 1.05pm. All are most welcome to celebrate this important Feast Day in honour of Our Blessed Lady with us at Farm Street Church.

Christmas Activities for Children

1) Children's Christmas Play (6pm Mass on Christmas Eve): If you wish your child/ children to take part in the Christmas play, which is an integral part of the 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass, please fill the form (available at the back of the church and at the reception) and submit it to Leninha Assis (Catechist), by the **12th December**. The rehearsal dates for the play are: 23rd December from 10.30am-11.30am and 24th December at 5pm leading into the 6pm Mass.

2) Christmas Gifts: The offering of the gifts for children at Christmas last year was a great success. Thankfully, all the gifts were given to **Mary's Meals Charity**. If you would like to join us in a gesture of generosity to make the Christmas of poor children a bit better, please donate a wrapped gift in a new or good condition, which will be collected during the offertory, (Gaudete Sunday) at the 9:30 Mass, on 12th December.

3) Christmas Choir: "Come and sing a song of Christmas, come and praise Him all the earth". All the children are invited to join the First Holy Communion group to sing Christmas carols in the Hall on the 12th December, after 9:30am Mass.

The Mother of The Word 40th anniversary

Our Lady appeared under the title of The Mother of The Word, from the 28th of November 1981, the day before Advent Sunday, to the 28th of November 1989, in Kibeho, Rwanda. The apparitions to Alphonsine, Nathalie and Marie-Claire were approved by the Holy See in 2001. Our Lady's main messages are: "My children, pray, pray, follow the Gospel of my Son and put it into practice; doing so will surely benefit your soul!" "Repent, Pray and Convert your hearts." "Meditate on the Seven Sorrows Chaplet and pray for the world which is becoming very rebellious." To commemorate the 40th anniversary, there will be prayers, talks and books on sale in various Parishes, including Farm Street Church.

To participate, please register your name at: friendsofthemothertoftheword@gmail.com.

Face Covering Notice

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respect the safety of all, we request that you wear a face covering in the church, unless you are exempt from doing so. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADVENT MUSIC

Farm Street Church will be hosting a number of Advent carol services in the upcoming weeks:

- ***Sunday 28th November** – 4pm – *Extracts from Handel's Messiah*
- ***Thursday 2nd December** – 7pm – KIDS carol service
- ***Friday 3rd December** – 7pm – Ampleforth carol service
- * **Monday 6th December** – 7pm - Stonyhurst carol service
- * **Tuesday 7th December** – 7pm – Jesuit Refugee Service carol service
- ***Thursday 9th December** – 7pm- PACT carol service
- ***Monday 13th December** – 7pm – Farm Street Church carol service
- ***Tuesday 14th December** – 7pm – Young Adults Ministry carol service
- ***Wednesday 15th December** – 7pm – Aid to the Church in Need carol service
- ***Thursday 16th December** – 7pm – Knights of the Holy Sepulchre carol service
- ***Friday 17th December** – 7.30pm – Friends of Bolivia Christmas concert (Tickets required. To book, visit the 'Upcoming Events' page on the Farm Street website.

As these services, with the exception of Messiah and the Farm Street carol service, are being organized by outside charities, a collection will be taken at each service for the work of the charities. Please contact the relevant charity for more information.

London Jesuit Centre

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. 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 Anne Paolino at apaolino@jesuit.org.uk.