

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church every Friday during Lent at 12.30pm. This replaces Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays during this period.

Synod Day

Sunday 25th of February is going to be dedicated to the Synod at Farm Street Church. This will take the form of brief (no more than 30 minutes) meetings after all of the masses other than the 8 am, where people will have a chance to ask the clergy about the Synod so far, hear about any updates and find out how to participate further, or indeed for the first time if you haven't so far. The clergy will co facilitate these meetings, along with a member of the parish who regularly attends that particular mass. Please come along and participate.

Synod Reflection

The following is a Synod reflection Heather Burke. Heather Farm Street parishioner and member of the St Vincent de Paul soup run.

It's easy to grumble: I do waking up at 5:30am weekdays and having to vacuum. And I've done that multiple times when I've struggled with my faith or Catholic Church teachings. But the Synod the Church is in the midst of has helped me journey in faith with fellow Christians instead of complaining in silence.

Two themes that emerged from the Synod's first session in October 2023 were co-responsibility and formation. Every Christian has a "unique mission to proclaim Christ;" we all have different gifts and vocations. This call to mission has really struck me in the multiple listening days I have attended at Farm Street, meeting people with such a diversity of backgrounds and views, the "variety of gifts but all the same spirit." What we all share is a desire to be part of the discernment on how to renew the Church's mission. This listening and reflection has strengthened my faith and hope in the Church.

I also joined a monthly Synod prayer group at Farm Street back in 2022 that has enriched my spiritual life. Besides having a dedicated time for stillness and prayer, I have also found a richness in diversity, being a small part of others' faith journey. I've also seen people put faith into action in the parish's Saint Vincent de Paul soup run.

The Church is in the second phase of the Synod, and the October meeting may focus more on practicalities. But Pope Francis said the Synod isn't just a series of events but a process of journeying together. And it's not too late to get involved. Watch the newsletter for upcoming events, check out the Synod page on the Farm Street website, pray and even just introduce yourself to a new person at Mass.

The Catholic Church faces multiple challenges, and some argue needs radical change. I don't know

what, if any, lasting structural and doctrinal changes will come, but I am hopeful that there is more focus on the individual and communal mission of all members. And there's no co-responsibility without self-responsibility. We need more voices participating, including young people and those on the margins. Whatever the path, I am inspired by this quote from last Sunday's reading (1 Corinthians 10:31 "...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." And I will try not to grumble.

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



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: 10:00 to 12:00; 17:45 – 17:55

Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

First Sunday of Lent

18th February 2024

YEAR B

TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

*When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.*

RESPONSE

*Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness
and love for those who keep your covenant.*

ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone, but on every
word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise
to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.*

COMMUNION

*One does not live by bread alone, but by every
word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*



LENT

So, rather suddenly, and with Christmas only just ended, we are now in Lent. And what are we going to do about it? There are two ways of getting Lent wrong. The first is to go for an impossible target of asceticism, and fail to reach it; the result of that, of course, is to make us gloomily suppose that we are complete no-hopers. Then the second way of getting it wrong is to succeed in giving up whatever-it-was: then, come Easter Sunday, we shall find ourselves purring like complacent Pharisees, thinking how lucky God is to have us as his servants. That is also a failure. The thing that really matters during these six-and-a-half weeks is not that we shall successfully go without gin or chocolate; the essential thing is that we shall have a time of preparation for Easter, the greatest feast of the Church's year, which has not only these forty days of run-up, but also, later on, seven weeks, culminating in the great feast of Pentecost, of rejoicing in the great mystery, the central truth of our faith, that God raised Jesus from the dead. That is what it is all about; that is where we must keep our attention over the next few weeks.

The question for each of us, therefore, is how we ought to prepare for Easter. This is what is really going on during these 40 days, not a competition to see who is the most austere of us. I remember with some embarrassment, in my days at university, trying to give up smoking for Lent. On at least one occasion my resolution did not last longer than midday on Ash Wednesday! And one year, things were made much worse by a friend who pointed out that Sundays don't count for Lenten abstinence and fasting. You can see how that might go: Sunday came to include Saturday, and from there it was just a short step to making it the whole weekend, which then remarkably lasted from Friday to Monday. And of course once you've got to that point, then it is hardly worth abstaining from nicotine for Tuesday to Thursday. So that was a complete disaster.

And you can add to that our embarrassment at the fact that we in the 1st World who have on the whole more than enough to eat and drink have no notion of the pain and misery even of people in our own country, an affluent estate where there is an extraordinary amount of poverty. Not only that, but if we look at the pain and anguish that exists in the outside world, there can seem to be something a bit precious about our boasting of what we are doing for Lent.

So what are we to do, during this all-important Lent season of 2024? Well, one thing we might profitably do, is to pray a bit more. "But that's too easy", I hear

you cry. Well, just try it and see. For one of the things about prayer is that, very gently, and not in the least aggressively, we find God challenging our comfortable illusions. So do begin doing a little bit of extra prayer; and start today. If you normally do 5 minutes of prayer each day, then I suggest you go for 6 tomorrow; but make sure above all that you are carefully listening. Your Lenten prayer is not to be an impertinent or importunate harangue to God, demanding that God pay attention to us, or congratulate us on our sanctity; rather let us listen out for that voice which is gently urging us onwards and upwards in our pilgrimage to Easter. "And what will that do for us?", you ask. Well, you can just try it and see; but I warn you that although it will always come gently, you will certainly find that prayer challenges us, and leads us in directions that we had not guessed, but which turn out to be absolutely correct. For God is in our story, always nudging us and inviting us and lovingly moving us on; and if we could follow that leading over the next six-and-a-half weeks, we shall certainly have spent a good Lent.

Would you like to try it for this year? Start tomorrow, and just wait and see what happens.

Fr. Nicholas King, S.J.

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: | First Sunday of Lent Genesis 9:8-15; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 |
| Mon: | Lent Feria Leviticus 19:1-18; Matthew 25:31-46 |
| Tue: | Lent Feria Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 |
| Wed: | Lent feria; St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 |
| Thu: | Chair of St Peter the Apostle I Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 |
| Fri: | Lent Feria; St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr (Friday abstinence) Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 |
| Sat: | Lent feria Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 |
| Sun: | Second Sunday of Lent Genesis 22:1-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10 |

CAFOD Family Fast Day

This falls this year on Friday 23rd February. Lenten talks and a second collection will take place on the weekend of the 24th/25th February. Please do consider taking home the Lenten fast day envelopes, which are in the pews this weekend, which will explain how to make a regular donation to CAFOD. All donations are gratefully received.

'In the footsteps of St Ignatius'

Sunday 7th - Saturday 13 April
£1995 pp includes flights Gatwick to Bilbao and return Barcelona to Gatwick.
Mass everyday with Fr Giacomo, the pilgrimage priest. Visits to Loyola, Pamplona, Xavier, Manresa, Montserrat. Stay 2 nights Loyola, 2 nights Pamplona, 2 nights Montserrat
Breakfast and dinner included
Dedicated English speaking local tour manager
Book now on enquiries@jcjourneys.com
01886 812862

9.30am Mass hymns

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Entrance | 180 | Led by the Spirit of our God |
| Offertory | 840 | God of mercy and compassion |
| Communion | 752 | My song is love unknown |
| Recessional | 206 | Forty days and forty nights |

'The Good Friday Agreement Twenty-Five Years On' by Lord Murphy of Torfaen
Sunday 25 February 2024, 4-5pm, St Mary's Church, 4 Holly Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 6QU

Lord Murphy, KCMCO, KSG, PC is a British Labour Party politician who was the Member of Parliament for Torfaen from 1987-2015. He served in the Cabinet in the roles of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Welsh Secretary. He was largely responsible for negotiating the so called 'strand two' ('North-South' or 'Island of Ireland') arrangements agreed in the Good Friday Agreement. It promises to be a fascinating insight into negotiating peace through politics. 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>

Cana Lounge Café

We are recruiting volunteers to operate the sandwich and beverage service for the Cana Lounge Café in the LJC. Position is for 3 days per week (Tues – Thurs) for approximately 3 hours per day (11 – 2pm). A food handling certificate and some food preparation is required. Volunteers keep all donations. For more information please speak with Fr. Dominic.

Disability and the Divine

Farm Street Church is currently hosting an exhibition titled 'Disability and the Divine' by artist Marc Bratcher. The pictures, depicting the Holy Family in the context of physical disability, are displayed on the side altars of the church. It is hoped that this exhibition will contribute to a positive conversation around disability and the church. The exhibition will run until the 2nd April.

Thank You

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity when we visited at the end of November last year. Donations of £2981 will enable Mary's Meals to feed 155 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. Thank you so much for your support, please pray for the work of Mary's Meals.

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 for peace.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: King Charles, Debra Minty Baker, Camilla Blower, Ian Bookey, Marie Carroll Copestake, Margaret Cartledge, Felicity Ann Croft, Natalie Dennehy-Caddick, Kyllikki Edelhain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Andrea Kelly, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigusie, 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*

Evangelising post-Christian Britain

7pm, Tuesday 20th February 2024, St James' Church, Spanish Place, Marylebone
Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary (Bismark, North Dakota) and co-author of *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* will deliver the lecture on *Evangelising post-Christian Britain*, presenting effective strategies to engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available. Ticket/Cost (if relevant): £5 (sponsored tickets available). Sign up for the event at guild-ransom.co.uk/events. For information, e-mail email_info@guild-ransom.co.uk