

# Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



## Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) 14<sup>th</sup> 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  
Email: [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)  
Tel: 07561 611 248

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer  
Email: [farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk)

David Graham, Director of Music  
Email: [farmstreetmusic@gmail.com](mailto:farmstreetmusic@gmail.com)

Leninha Assis, Catechist  
Email: [farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)

Kevin De Souza, Sacristan  
Email: [farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk)

Sebastian Cichocki, Maintenance  
Email: [scichocki@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:scichocki@jesuit.org.uk)

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Steven Fachada, [farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk)

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Debbie Martin, [farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### **Parish Office**

**ADDRESS:** 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH  
**TELEPHONE:** 020 7493 7811  
**E-MAIL:** [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.farmstreet.org.uk](http://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, start 7<sup>th</sup> March)

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](mailto: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.

## A CALL TO COME INTO THE LIGHT OF THE TRUTH

“Come out into the light”, says Jesus to Nicodemus. The one who is in the light may be seen plainly, and in such a way, the Gospel tells us, we see the truth. But how does the Christian respond to that invitation in the midst of today’s world, a world in which it’s often difficult to know where the truth lies, as the truth is so often manipulated and obscured?

Surely with great difficulty. It’s no wonder many end up questioning if the vaccine is safe, the infection rate really is coming down, and if it’s really safe to come to church. The answer to all those three is clearly in the affirmative but there is so much fake news out there it is difficult to see the truth. We are indeed beginning to see the light at the end of the long tunnel of the lockdown and, if the majority of us are vaccinated and are still careful, we can look forward to all the things we miss at Farm Street as we sing hymns again, socialise in the Arrupe Hall and in the Gardens, and build a Christian community unfettered from social distancing, sanitising and the computer screen.

But as we begin to see that light emerge in the distance we are also being called to reflect on what we have been learning from this time, where the truth is in that, and what we will take from the experience of this dreadful time to help us respond to the task to rebuild in what Pope Francis is calling this ‘change of era’. Pope Francis has been leading us in that reflection over this last year. I for one find his leadership truly inspirational. He sees a world on its knees yearning for a society which is more authentically human, which is more just, where everyone’s dignity is respected, where the light of truth shines forth and dispels the darkness.

The Holy Father seems more and more aware of how contemporary culture has obscured the truth. As society becomes more and more polarised and fake news holds us hostage he is calling us to embrace a truth that has been eluding us but truly is out there, revealed to us in the light of Christ’s coming and his resurrection, a truth we need to rediscover as central to our faith and to our calling to be missionary disciples. The Christ who dies in agony on the cross, goes into the despair of the tomb, will rise again and herald new life. We are called to bring that Christ to our world and to take the reins of rebuilding his Kingdom.

Lent gives us the opportunity to prepare well for the light of Easter. There is still time to use what is left of

it well. Maybe this year it will be very different for some of us, perhaps many of us. The story of our year may be tinged with sadness, suffering, emotional and mental anguish, perhaps also financial and job worries. The pandemic has dealt cruel blows to so many in society. But it could also be time for looking back to discern how I have been serving him as his disciple so as to look forward to the light of Easter. Where are the areas of my life where I have omitted to witness to the risen Christ I worship each Sunday? That is what it is to repent. To allow God to reignite those parts of my life where gifts have remained unused, potential left untapped, where God wants fruit still to be born through the gift of our very selves where the Risen Christ resides.

This Lent is tough for many of us as this year is so tough for so many of us. But we are called to remember that Lent propels us to Easter. The light at the end of the tunnel can give us hope if we truly do desire to bring Christ and his values to a world which is yearning to rediscover what it is to be an authentically human society built on eternal truths.

**Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ**

### Liturgical Calendar

**Sun:** Fourth Sunday in Lent (*Laetare Sunday*)  
**Mon:** Lent feria  
**Tue:** Lent feria  
**Wed:** St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland  
**Thu:** Lent feria  
**Fri:** St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Sat:** Lent feria  
**Sun:** Fifth Sunday in Lent

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sun:** II Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21  
**Mon:** Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54  
**Tue:** Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 5:1-16  
**Wed:** I Peter 4:7-11; Luke 5:1-11  
**Thu:** Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47  
**Fri:** II Samuel 7:4-16; Romans 4:13-22; Matthew 1:16-22  
**Sat:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-52  
**Sun:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

### 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](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)

## 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.

### 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.

### Scripture Speaks

*"The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."* Zephaniah 3:17

### Saints and Demons

You are invited to join us for a Zoom conversation and studio tour with sculptor Timothy Schmalz on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Timothy is the Canadian sculptor renowned for his creation of the 'The Homeless Jesus' statue. He invites you to visit his studio to show and discuss some of his recent work since the creation of the Homeless Jesus and the Angels Unawares installed in St. Peter's Square. While still installing The Homeless Jesus in cities around the world, Timothy continues to bring attention to social issues with a series of sculptures on the theme of Human Trafficking while also completing an epic sculpture collection of 100 sculptures to celebrate Dante's 700 anniversary. If you would like to attend this talk titled 'Saints and Demons', please contact the parish secretary at [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk).

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> of February and concluding on the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 4, which will focus on the miracle of Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus, as recorded in Mark 10:46-52. The theme for the remaining weeks is:

Week 5: This man was Son of God Mk 15: 33-39  
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@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:London.companionsofmalta@gmail.com) if you  
have any queries.

## Scripture Speaks

*"Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon."* Philippians 4:4-5

## 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.

## 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

## 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](mailto:farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk). Thank you again for your support.