

**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 being 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>

**Volunteers needed – Find out more
Wednesday 1st February.**

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster diocese. Could you help us raise awareness about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out by joining our meeting this Wednesday 1st February from 2.30-4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

Candlemas Celebration

Farm Street Candlemas Celebration 2nd February 2023

Come and be inspired as we bring the Christmastide light into the new season. 6pm Mass and Blessing of candles 7pm crepes by hospitality chef, Eric, followed by a performance of Bardic story, poetry and song in the Arrupe Hall. £20 on the door or via [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) All proceeds go to the Bard School. Booking essential: Contact Sarah de Nordwall Bardschool@gmail.com 07849 641899

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

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.

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET



**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
29th January 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*

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

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

RESPONSE

How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

COMMUNION

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

With this Sunday's Gospel at Mass we begin reading the famous 'Sermon on the Mount,' which is to be found only in St Matthew's Gospel, in chapters 5-7. It seems to be a collection of sayings of Our Lord taken from different occasions and sermons, which are grouped together by the evangelist for the sake of his local community to cover various high points and concerns in Our Lord's regular preaching.

As we study the sermon, we realise that it was about belonging to the community which was being created by Jesus as God's new chosen people. It is reminiscent of the way in which the great earlier prophet Moses had brought the people of Israel together to listen to God speaking to them from Mount Sinai and forming them then into his chosen people. It would be useful to sit down and read this sermon through at home some time, and try to see it as a whole. Although this would not take very long, it is something which we do not have the time to do at Sunday Mass. The Sermon as a whole describes what the followers of Jesus are expected to be like (as the start of Matthew chapter five tells us), and then how they are expected to behave, both in their moral lives (chapter five), and in their spiritual lives (chapters six and seven). Reading it through prayerfully, we could well find that it is as relevant for us all today as it was in Jesus' own time for his disciples then.

The Sermon on the Mount is fairly short, yet it contains a great deal of Our Lord's teaching condensed in it, as we shall realise as we go through it in the Sundays ahead. Today we have its opening, the famous passage known traditionally as the 'beatitudes', the opening word taken from the Latin word *beatus*, which means happy, or blessed, or even lucky. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the gentle, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure in heart, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who are persecuted.' It seems a strange list of ways for people to be blessed, or happy; but it is actually a series of challenges offered by Jesus to those who wish to follow him, making clear where their priorities in life should lie. If being a Christian means being poor, or downtrodden, or victimised, as Jesus was; if it involves trying to be gentle, and understanding,

and reconciling, as Jesus himself set out to be, then Christians are all 'blessed', that is, fortunate, for they are imitating their Master in all these ways. They belong to God, and God is on their side.

The very first beatitude is the most significant, and gives us an important clue to what they are all pointing to: 'Those who are poor in spirit are fortunate; the kingdom of God belongs to them'. In the Old Testament, the poor of God, the *anawim*, were recognised as those who put all their trust in God and in his care for them. At the very opening of the Sermon on the Mount, then, Jesus invites us all to be 'poor in spirit' in many ways, that is, never totally dependent on our selves or our worldly resources and assets, but always relying on God and on his love for us, whatever happens..

Fr Jack Mahoney SJ

From the archives. Preached on the 30th January, 2011.

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	725	Immortal invisible
Offertory	601	Praise to the Lord
Communion	910	Christ be beside me
Recessional	801	Love divine

11am Music List

Mass	Missa in honorem Sancti <i>Josephi Peeters</i>	
Motets	Cantante Domino <i>Reichel</i> O quam amabilis von <i>Amelsvoort</i>	
Organ	Passacaglia (BWV582) <i>JS Bach</i>	

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.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: Feria
Tue: St John Bosco, Priest
Wed: Feria
Thu: The Presentation of the Lord
Fri: St Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury (*Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday; St John de Brito SJ, Priest, & Bl Rudolph Acquaviva, Priest, & Companions SJ, Martyrs
Sun: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Readings

Sun: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12
Mon: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20
Tue: Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43
Wed: Hebrews 12:4-15; Mark 6:1-6
Thu: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40
Fri: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Sat: Hebrews 13:15-21; Mark 6:30-34
Sun: Isaiah 58:7-10; I Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

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 in thanksgiving for Our Lady's overflowing support from a grateful soul.

LW MVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral

Thursday, 16 February 2023, 19:30 – 22:00
A concert by London Welsh Male Voice Choir to raise funds for the Friends of the Holy Land. Welcome to a wonderful evening of virtuoso singing and entertainment featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests. Tickets can be bought through Eventbrite. Search LWMVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral.



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.

Why Believe? Defending and Explaining the Faith

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'? Shouldn't we focus our concerns on the problems of this world, rather than worrying about the 'life of the world to come'? 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.

Tuesday, 28 February 2023 to Tuesday 28th March 2023
12:00pm - 1:00pm
Online - Zoom
To book a place, visit:
www.londonjesuitcentre.org