

How to be a Synodal Church

Pope Francis calls for all the baptised to be involved in the Synodal Process – are you? Join people from a range of parishes and backgrounds for a day of reflection, conversation, and action to prepare for the October 2024 Synodal Assembly in Rome.

Saturday 10th February 2024

10am (refreshments) for 10.30am – 4pm
Light refreshments provided – bring a packed lunch

The Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street

RSVP – Farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
020 8986 0807

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life

Dates: 16-18 February 2024

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

Laudate Deum Discussion

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith group will be meeting for a discussion on Pope Francis' Laudate Deum. The dates are:

Wednesday 17th January – Chapters 1 & 2

Wednesday 21st February – Chapters 3 & 4

Wednesday 20th March – Chapters 5 & 6

1.30pm – 3pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1EP.

For more information, contact woodhousesopten@btinternet.com.

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th January 2024

YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

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

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

ACCLAMATION

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

COMMUNION

My lips will tell of your help.

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 Friday: 12:00-13:00

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



UNDERLYING REASONS

It has often been remarked that “life is for the living”, and so it is. And it has also been remarked that “we can have the experience but miss the meaning”. How true that is as well. Both these statements offer us an approach as to how we should think about life and, if we ever do that, to seek something more than perhaps we currently live for.

We do manage to get by from day to day, nevertheless, but sometimes things happen to us which make us pause or question our lives: who we are and what we are doing. This is all very normal and good. It is particularly interesting when, upon reflection, we spot something we hadn't noticed before. We may have wanted a certain job or thing, for example, and then discover, after the experience of it, that there was another reason why we sought it. In these instances we say we found a deeper reason for wanting it; a reason we were not aware of before, since we thought we wanted it for the first reason, but we now think differently and realise that there are other reasons which influenced our actions. Very often such underlying reasons only emerge after some time and reflection. They tell us that our initial thinking is not the whole story about us but that we can operate out of other hidden reasons which are not apparent to us straight away.

This brief example illustrates that we are persons who exist at different levels: we act for one reason and then realise we acted for another underlying one about which we were unaware when we first acted. If you like, we become aware of two levels of reasoning. These different levels exist within us and as our lives go on we can at least be aware that they exist and allow ourselves the time and reflection needed to try to be more conscious of them. Many spiritual writers, not least our own St Ignatius Loyola, regarded such reflective activity as vital to deepening our lives in God.

The late Cardinal Dulles wrote about different models of thinking about the Church but another, more interesting avenue is to think about her different *levels*. A recent book by a Russian Orthodox bishop talks about the “empirical” Church, that is, the Church which we can see, and the “deep structure” of the Church: that which we can't see. And he took pains to emphasise that it is the latter and not the former which is of real importance. To follow the example above

analogously, it is the underlying level of the Church that is the most real, not the surface level. So, as human beings have different levels, the Church herself exists in a similar way, at different levels, some of which become apparent only over time and reflection.

Today's gospel gives us an account of Jesus dealing with this phenomenon. It first becomes apparent to those who listen to him in the synagogue that he is not reading what he says out of a book, nor is he throwing out ideas off the top of his head but that what he says is coming from within him and from a level they are not used to listening to. They then comment that he speaks with authority, that is, with a quality emanating from a deeper level within him than they are used to from other rabbis. Jesus also meets head on and faces down an unclean spirit which has possessed someone; a spirit who recognises the deepest level of Jesus' human existence, namely, his divinity. St Mark consistently and from the outset has Jesus confront and overpower these demonic spirits since, for St Mark, it is this level of human life which is the most dangerous and threatening and which only Jesus has the power to overcome. Let us then take most seriously these different levels of our own lives and ask God to help us in the struggle against the enemy of human nature.

Fr James Campbell SJ

From the archives. First published on the 1st February 2009.

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!

Icon Blessings

We are delighted today to welcome Fr Stefan Ponjarac from the Serbian Orthodox Community to bless the icons currently on display in the ground floor gallery. The blessing will take place after the 11am Mass. These icons make up exhibition ‘On Earth as it is in Heaven’ which displays works by Dr Irina Bradley.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Deuteronomy 18:15-20;
I Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Mon: **Feria**
II Samuel 15:13-16:13; Mark 5:1-20

Tue: **Feria**
II Samuel 18:9-19:3; Mark 5:21-43

Wed: **St John Bosco, Priest**
II Samuel 24:2-17; Mark 6:1-6

Thu: **Feria**
I Kings 2:1-12; Mark 6:7-13

Fri: **The Presentation of the Lord**
(Friday abstinence)
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40

Sat: **Ss Laurence, Dunstan, and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury**
I Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34

Sun: **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Job 7:1-7; I Corinthians 9:16-23;
Mark 1:29-39

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year observed on Wednesday 14th February. Mass with imposition of ashes will be celebrated at the usual times of 8am, 1.05pm, and 6pm. Organ music will accompany the 1.05pm Mass and the Farm Street Choir will accompany the 6pm Mass. Lent is a solemn period in the Church's calendar and a good start will help all of us as we observe this penitential season. Due to its penitential significance, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. All Catholics are bound to abstain from meat and Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. Ash Wednesday falling on St Valentine's Day this year does not remove this obligation. Further details about fasting and abstinence can be found at www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Penance/Abstinence.pdf

11am Music List

Prelude Trio in D-minor (BWV583) *JS Bach*
Mass Mass in A-minor *Eberlin*
Motets Beati pauperes *Sweelinck*
Ave verum corpus *Milani*
Postlude Prelude in E-minor (BWV548) *JS Bach*

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 an individual in thanksgiving.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Ian Bookey, Marie Carroll Copestake, Felicity Ann Croft, Natalie Dennehy-Caddick, Kyllikki Edelshain, Christian Engelhart, 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, 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*

Knock Pilgrimage

Escorted Tour to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes

On Saturday 10th February 2024, 2.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at Westminster Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered. Tickets must be booked for this via the parish. If you would like to attend this Mass, please contact Fr Dominic or George at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk.