

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 31st January 2021 (Year B)

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
Tel: 07561 611 248

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer
Email: farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk

David Graham, Director of Music
Email: farmstreetmusic@gmail.com

Leninha Assis, Catechist
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Kevin De Souza, Sacristan
Email: farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk

Sebastian Cichocki, Maintenance
Email: scichocki@jesuit.org.uk

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada, farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

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WEBSITE: www.farmstreet.org.uk

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 10am & 6pm

Saturday: 10am & 6pm

Sunday: 11am (Latin) & 6pm

Due to the critical situation in London, all Masses will be celebrated behind locked doors until further notice. Mass can be viewed on our livestreaming page. <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Saturday: 11am to 4pm

Sunday: 12.30pm to 4pm

CONFESSIONS

By appointment.

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment. Dates are subject to lockdown developments.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 11am to 5.30pm

Sunday: 12.30pm to 5.30pm

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE

All events are suspended until further notice. For more information, contact Anne Paolino at 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.

MESSAGE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday and the text below was written for the occasion by Bishop Paul McAleenan. Bishop Paul is an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Lead Bishop for Racial Justice at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. For more information about the Bishops' Conference approach to issues of racial justice, visit the following link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>

“Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society.

This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: 'instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.'

These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: 'all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur.'

Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-racism in all aspects of our mission.

We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church's life.

We need to engage suppliers and businesses from all parts of the community, seeking out those which promote diversity and inclusivity.

Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.

It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: 'This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new.'”

Bishop Paul McAleenan

Suspension of Public Worship

Following a consultation led by the Parish Pastoral Council we have decided that, in the interests of public safety and following the directive of both the Mayor of London and the Prime Minister that people stay at home and use public transport only for essential travel, public Masses will be suspended as of Friday 22nd January until the critical situation in London regarding the possibility of COVID and its new variants' infection improves.

The church will now be open from 11am – 5:30pm (on Sunday from 12:30pm) with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4pm. There will be two livestreamed Masses Monday to Saturday at 10am and 6pm (on Saturday the Vigil Mass of Sunday) and on Sunday 11am Solemn Latin and 6pm in English with music.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: Feria
Tue: The Presentation of the Lord
Wed: SS Laurence, Dunstan, and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury
Thu: St John de Brito SJ and His Companions, Jesuit Martyrs of India
Fri: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Sat: St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
Sun: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; I Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28
Mon: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20
Tue: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40
Wed: Hebrews 11:4-15; Mark 6:1-6
Thu: Hebrews 12:18-24; Mark 6:7-13
Fri: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Sat: Hebrews 13:15-21; Mark 6:30-34
Sun: Job 7:1-7; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

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 following link to the relevant section of the Government website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

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

Copenhagen Street Foodbank

Farm Street Church is collecting supplies for the Copenhagen Street Foodbank. This foodbank is an independent community set up with the support of Caritas Westminster, and operates on Thursday, 1pm to 3.30pm, in the Blessed Sacrament Church Hall in Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR. They are appealing for donations of non-perishable foods (such as pasta, rice, tinned food, biscuits etc), toiletries, household items (such as laundry liquid and detergent), feminine products, and baby supplies. If you would like to donate supplies, please them in bags inside the Farm Street entrance to the church.

The Pope's Prayer Network

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is the largest prayer-group in the church, active in 97 countries. They pray and work to meet the challenges of the world identified by the Pope in his monthly intentions, while walking a spiritual path called the "Way of the Heart". It is a Pontifical Service entrusted to the Society of Jesus by the Holy See, and this status has been confirmed by Pope Francis.

Farm Street Church will publish the monthly intentions of the Pope in this newsletter, and we commend these intentions and the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network to you. They have recently launched a new website which we encourage you to visit <https://www.praywiththepope.net/popes-intentions/>

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of January, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for **evangelization and human fraternity**. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Parliamentary Motion

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Right to Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP. Please visit the link— it only takes 30 seconds. <https://righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion>

Cana Journey

Cana Journey is a new initiative which is designed around these challenging times of social restriction and home-working, and which promises support and enrichment for couples. Cana Journey is a dedicated YouTube channel that helps couples spend time listening and talking to each other to enrich, support, repair and strengthen their lives together. English speaking couples from Cana Canada, Ireland, UK and USA are delighted to present CANA@Home. Each couple will present the symbolism of our own homes as a focus for prayer and reflection over 6 broadcasts. The first opening is on Friday 29th January 8pm. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yacBMtYjcKQ&feature=youtu.be>

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

Advent Charity Raffle

The text below is copied from a letter sent to us from the Catholic Children's Society. It is in response to the £1,600 we were able to donate to them with the proceeds of our Advent Charity Raffle.

'I would like to pass on a huge thank you to you and all the parishioners at Farm Street for your generous donation on £1,600 which we received before Christmas. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to provide food and gifts for over 1,000 disadvantaged children over the holidays. These were distributed via schools to ensure those children most in need were able to access this support. Below I have included a few examples of the feedback we have received:

Oh my goodness, honestly I can't express how much this will help our families. This is going to change Christmas for so many of them. I cannot thank you all enough." (Headteacher)

"Words cannot express what this means to my family. I have never found myself in this situation before and didn't know where to turn to for support. Thank you for being there." (Parent)

"I love my present, I wasn't expecting anything this year. Thank you for making Christmas special for me." (Child)

Many families could not believe that complete strangers had shown such kindness towards them. Your support really has helped spread joy and has given these families a sense of hope for the future.

We know the months ahead will be challenging and the Catholic Children's Society will continue to work with schools across London to provide immediate and direct support for those children facing severe hardship. This is only possible thanks to the generosity of parishes such as yours and we are very grateful for all you do.

With thanks and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Brister
Deputy CEO

Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Aid to the Church in Need's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is due to take place between Friday 12 November and Saturday 20 November 2021. Pilgrims will not only visit Holy sites, but will have the chance to visit ACN projects, as well as meeting with local Church leaders and Christian families.

The pilgrimage will be led by Father Dominic Robinson SJ, ACN UK's National Ecclesiastical Assistant and Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of ACN UK. The nine-day itinerary will take in locations of important religious and historical importance: Bethlehem, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Old City Jerusalem, Qumran, Dead Sea, Galilee, Cana, Nazareth and Tiberias. For more information, please visit <https://acnuk.org/event/aid-to-the-church-in-needs-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-2021/>

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

Supporting the Parish

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has continued to financially support the church during the many 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 are able to 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 handle and 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. Thank you again for your support.