

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

The Fragile Line

By Andrew White

We are pleased to say that we will be hosting an exhibition by Andrew White titled, 'Homelessness in Drawings and Sculpture' from **October 17th – 6th January 2023**. The exhibition will be displayed in the ground-floor corridor.

Christmas Cards

The Farm Street Christmas card is available for sale in Reception during the week and in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30 and 11.00 Masses. Cards are priced at £2.50 individually and at £12.00 for a box of six.

Christmas Mass & Service Times

Christmas Eve

(Saturday 24th December)

16:00 First Mass of Christmas with carols
18:00 Mass with Children's Nativity Play
23.30 Christmas Carols (Doors open 23:00)
00:00 Midnight Mass with Farm Street Choir

Christmas Day

(Sunday 25th December)

08:00 Mass with carols
09.30 Family Mass with carols
11:00 Solemn Latin Mass with choir
12.30 Mass with carols
17:30 Mass with carols
No 19:00 Young Adult Mass

Boxing Day to Friday 30th December

Church opens at 11:00
12:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
13:05 Mass
Church closes immediately after Mass

Saturday 31st December

As normal

Sunday 1st January

Sunday schedule as normal.
No 19:00 Young Adult Mass

Monday 2nd January

Church opens at 11:00
12:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
13:05 Mass
Church closes immediately after Mass

Tuesday 3rd January

Normal schedule resumes

Confessions will be heard as normal, with the addition of 10:00 to 16:00 confessions in the church on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Activities for Children

1) Children's Christmas Play (6pm Mass on Christmas Eve): If you wish your child/ children to take part in the Christmas play, which is an integral part of the 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass, please fill the form (available at the back of the church and at the reception) and submit it to Leninha Assis (Catechist), by the 15th December. The rehearsal dates for the play are: 23rd December from 10.30am-11.30am and 24th December at 5pm leading into the 6pm Mass.

2) Christmas Gifts: The offering of the gifts for children at Christmas last year was a great success, with all gifts given to the Catholic Children's Society. Toys will be collected this year for the Catholic Children's Society of Westminster at the 9.30 Mass on Sunday, 11 December and delivered to the Society the following day. Toys must be brand new and may be left unwrapped. If wrapped, they should be labelled with what is inside as well as the appropriate age and gender of the intended child. Toys may also be left at Reception on Monday to Friday of this week.

3) Christmas Choir: "Come and sing a song of Christmas, come and praise Him all the earth". All the children are invited to join the First Holy Communion group to sing Christmas carols in the Hall on the 18th December, after 9:30am Mass. For further information, contact Leninha Assis.

Monthly Vigil Outside Home Office

Next vigil December 19th 2022
Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF
You are invited to the Prayer Vigil from 12.30-1.30pm. Normally every third Monday of the month. We remember ♦ those who have died trying to reach the UK, ♦ the many victims of the war in Ukraine ♦ those who work with asylum seekers in detention centres, and those who are homeless ♦ Those who struggle to inject welcome and humanity into our legislation. For further information contact johanmaertens@hotmail.com or barbarakentish@talktalk.ne

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent 18th December 2022

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

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

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.

RESPONSE

Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.

ACCLAMATION

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a
son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name
which means 'God-is-with-us'.

COMMUNION

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a
son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



GOOD NEWS

We are almost there. We continue to draw from what works, and we leave behind and let go of things that hinder us. And at some point, we cannot avoid noticing a sign, good news for our journey, until it gradually becomes a little bit more real, more tangible. In other words, those small Christmas feasts that come our way in ordinary life. Every time God visits us, it brings on the Christmas flavour. In the face of journeying during Advent season, we need to be realistic and hold on. It is no coincidence that we spoke together last week about perseverance and patience. I continue this week to develop the theme of holding on and expecting the Lord's salvation because all of humanity needs it. We all need to leave behind our evil ways of coping and find ways that best communicate God's splendour in giving us this life.

When we look at the readings to mark the fourth Advent Sunday, they speak of receiving a sign which shows forth the Lord's goodness and no one needs to test it out (cf. Is 7:12). The sign comes directly from God after the King Ahaz refused to seek for a sign of rescue. Instead, God's patience saves us in our circumstances and in time offers us "the Good News that God promised long ago" (Rom 1:2).

So, if we were encouraged up until now to continue to walk the path, this time we are encouraged to do both, keep on walking and look for signs that affirm our progress. God's sign is the Good News of God with us. When Ignatius offers us to pray over the mystery of Incarnation, he exhorts us "to ask for intimate knowledge of our Lord, who has become man for me, that I may love Him more and follow Him more closely." (SpEx 104). In this preparatory prayer, we are to look towards God in Trinity who looks at each one of us -- so many places and people seeking justice and peace (cf. SpEx 102-103) -- and wants to save us all from self-destruction. Trying this out by recalling my own personal circumstances is a healthy spiritual exercise to bring on the need for salvation and the meaning of Christ becoming man, the true meaning of Christmas festivities. Mathew's Gospel tells the story of Joseph, his looking at signs, his journeying and discernment through his gradual acceptance that God is indeed involved. Joseph is a just man, a man who works honestly, a man who respects his fiancé and someone who remains within the rules of the society in which he lives. And precisely for this man, plans do not go as expected. We too happen to be like Joseph. We try to live as honestly as we can, we pursue our goals and are committed to always doing what we think is right. Yet, unexpected things happen to us leading us to reconsider all of our projects. There are always two alternatives available: to welcome and embrace anything unexpected even at the risk of it all being all too messy, or to neglect and refuse all that life offers,

remaining closed in our schemes and projects and not leaving too much place for God to intervene. Dreams and desires are a good way of following God's signs. Anxieties often trump our or God's plans. But with the name of Jesus on our lips, with love and in a spirit of conversion, we stand a better chance to find the Good News of God with us.

What unexpected event is making its way into my life at the moment and trumps my plans?
What do I dream about and what desire do I find in my heart?
Where do I find myself anxious to make a choice?

Fr Ladislav Sulik SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mon: Advent feria
Tue: Advent feria
Wed: Advent feria (St Peter Canisus, Priest & Doctor)
Thu: Advent feria
Fri: Advent feria (St John of Kanty, Priest) (*Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Christmas Eve
Sun: Christmas Day

Daily Readings

Sun: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24
Mon: Judges 13:2-25; Luke 1:5-25
Tue: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Wed: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
Thu: I Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
Fri: Malachi 3:1-24; Luke 1:57-66
Sat: II Samuel 7:1-16; Luke 1:67-79
Sun: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

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).

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Susan Carpenter, Marie Carroll Copestake, Maggie Danby, Paul Johnson, 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. Michael Wymes
Requiescat in pace

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 for a private intention.

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	880	Tell out my soul
Offertory	113	The angel Gabriel
Communion	803	Love is his word
Recessional	112	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

11am Music List

Mass Mass for four voices *Byrd*
Motets Ave Maria *Guerrero*
Ne timeas Maria *Victoria*
Post-communion hymn 112 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Knock Pilgrimage

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 15th May 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. (*The above pilgrimage is not being organised through Farm Street Church*).

Confirmations 2023

The next programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation for teenagers (aged 14+) begins on the 29th January 2023. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at Farm Street Church on the 25th June 2023. For more information, contact Leninha.

Catholic Media

The UK is well-served by high-quality Catholic media outlets. However, like many in these trying economic times, they too find themselves struggling. Why not consider lending your support and taking out a subscription for 2023? More information can be found at:
Catholic Herald: www.catholicerald.co.uk
The Universe www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk
The Tablet: www.thetablet.co.uk



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.

London Jesuit Centre Ideas Day

Monday 9th January, 2023, 1.30pm
The London Jesuit Centre invites all our friends to come along to our Ideas Day.

The Centre is new, and is looking to better meet the needs of the Church and society in general. As we enter the New Year we are considering our future plans and how best to reach out to people.

If you have any ideas about what is needed in the Church and the world, particularly in the areas of Spirituality, Theology and Environment and Social Justice, then please come along if you can to our Ideas Day. We will let you know what we have been doing in the past year or so and listen to you about what you think would be good to develop.

Although the event is free, we ask you to sign up so we know how many people to cater for.

Race and Theology

Starting on Tuesday 24th January and running every week until Tuesday 21st February. 12 noon to 1pm via Zoom. Throughout the long history of the Church, Christian sacred texts have been used as a way of promoting both racial justice and racial discrimination. During the earliest period of European colonial history, Christian theology was co-opted by those who sought to provide an ethical warrant for genocide. It was also used by those who sought to defend the dignity of indigenous people. During the nineteenth century, Christian theology was used by those who wished to defend the practice of slavery but also by abolitionists. In the twentieth century, white nationalist groups vaunted their Christian identity but Christian thought and texts were also used by those who fought against racism. This course explores the complex interaction between Christian theology and race over the course of two thousand years of Church history.