

Christmas Mass & Service Times

Christmas Eve

(Sunday 24th December)

08:00, 09:30, 11:00 & 12:30 Masses as normal
16:00 First Mass of Christmas with carols
18:00 Mass with Children's Nativity Play
No 19:00 Young Adult Mass
23.30 Christmas Carols (Doors open 23:00)
00:00 Midnight Mass with Farm Street Choir

Christmas Day

(Monday 25th December)

08:00 Mass with carols
09.30 Family Mass with carols
11:00 Solemn Mass with choir
12.30 Mass with carols
17:30 Mass with carols

Boxing Day to Friday 29th December

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

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st December

As normal

Monday 1st January

Church opens at 11:00
12:00 Mass
Church closes immediately after Mass

Tuesday 2nd January

Normal schedule resumes

Christmas No. 1

'Hard Times' is the new single from London-based band Ooberfuse and American rapper, Snoop Dogg. The proceeds from sales will go to support the work of Central London Catholic Churches based at Farm Street Church. This is a **very** exciting project for us at Farm Street, and we hope it will go a long way to raising awareness for the plight of the homeless and supporting the good work that takes place here at Farm Street. Help us to get this single to No. 1 by downloading on Amazon and iTunes.

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.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Marie Carroll Copestake, Felicity Ann Croft, Kyllikki Edelhshain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Helen Murphy, 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*

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 of Advent and Christmastide

24th, 25th & 31st
December 2023

YEAR B

Sunday in Advent Responses

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

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

ACCLAMATION

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

COMMUNION

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

Responses for Christmastide found on page 3

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

Cana Lunch Café

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, a café lunchtime café operates in the Cana Lounge at 114 Mount Street. Freshly made sandwiches and soup are available for a very reasonable suggested donation. The café operates between 12 noon and 2pm. **The café will be closed from the 8th December and will re-open on the 9th January.** We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Icon Exhibition – On Earth as it is in Heaven

An exhibition of icons and contemporary art by Irina Bradley will be displayed in the Ground Floor Gallery at 114 Mount Street from 2nd December to the 15th January 2024. 10am-7pm, Monday to Friday; 9am – 3pm Saturday; By appointment on Sunday. www.irinabradley.com

Synod Day of Prayer

Farm Street Synod Team would like to invite you to a Day of Prayer, facilitated by Farm Street Parishioners and Oxford University Chaplaincy:

Date: Saturday 30th December **Time:** 10-4:30

Place: Cana Lounge, basement of Mount Street

Come and spend some in prayer and reflection: An opportunity to reflect on the year as 2023 draws to a close. Program to be published on the Synod Page of the website shortly.



A REFUGEE CHRISTMAS

I am privileged to be closely associated with the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK as chair of its management committee.

Last Friday, JRS UK held its service in preparation for Christmas in our church. There was a large congregation of refugee friends, colleagues and supporters of our work. The poems and dramatic scenes which formed part of the service were composed by the refugees themselves.

When preparing my homily, I found myself reading the familiar Christmas stories from a new perspective. I thought I would share my homily with you. This Christmas, I will be understanding the events around the coming of Christ in this way...

Joseph and Mary had to travel far from their hometown of Nazareth because some proud and powerful man in faraway Rome wanted to know how big his empire was. They were, in other words, at the mercy of forces over which they had no control and which, for a while, turned their lives upside down.

Bethlehem was the ancestral of Joseph's family. He might have expected a warmer welcome than the one he and his heavily-pregnant wife received. But instead, the doors were locked, the windows firmly shut and the people cold. There was no room for them in any decent living space. They were homeless. The best shelter they could find was in a stable.

It's an indignity to give birth in a stable. Mary, the mother of Jesus, suffered that indignity.

She, like any mother, would have wanted the best for her child, but she had to lay him in a manger from which, perhaps moments before, the animals had been eating. I can't believe that would do anything other than break any mother's heart. No doubt, it broke Mary's heart as well.

A special place was given to the poorest of the poor. Shepherds slept on the hillsides with their sheep and were despised by the polite and so-called respectable people. These same shepherds, however, society's outcasts, were the first to recognise in this tiny child the "great light" of which Isaiah had spoken, the one who would be a light to the people who walked in darkness.

Jesus was born in a time of political turmoil and oppression. The country had been invaded: it was subjected to the harsh rule of a faraway dictator. Very soon, the family would have to set off in haste and seek safety as refugees in a far off land in order to escape the violence unleashed by the local puppet king who cared only about himself and was consumed with jealousy.

As for Mary, she could have had no idea where any of this might take her; no idea about what tomorrow might bring. She lived with radical uncertainty. But she also had an equally radical faith, trusting that the God who was with her would never let go of her or her family.

Somehow all this fitted his plan: a mysterious plan, yes, but one that ultimately promised life.

There is so much in the story which we remember and celebrate on Christmas night that can encourage us, and strengthen us, and give each one of us hope. For this story, in whole or in part, is the story of us all.

Along with Mary, we can trust that God is on our side and will never let us go. Come what may, we have Jesus for our friend.

This is the Jesus who was born in poverty, who chose the life of a poor preacher and who preached the good news of the Kingdom amongst the poor. This was a Kingdom in which the poor had first place. This is good news for us all: this is the Jesus who comes to set us free.

Be you refugee friends or otherwise associated with the work of JRS UK, we are all companions in his mission. We Jesuits thank God for the privilege of accompanying you on your journey.

May our ever-present God take care of you, watch over and guard you, and always keep you safe.

Fr Michael Holman SJ
JRS UK Service in Preparation for Christmas
At Farm Street on 15 December 2023

Merry Christmas

The clergy and staff at Farm Street Church wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Whether you are a regular parishioner, an online friend, or a regular visitor, may God bless you at this time and into 2024.

Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are normally served in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30am, 11am and 5.30pm Sunday Masses (second & fourth Sunday only for 5.30pm).

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 (23rd to 29th December) is lit for the intention of the Soares Family.

The lamp next week (30th December to 5th January) is lit for Alessandro Patel thanksgiving intention.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun:	Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve II Samuel 7:1-16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Mon:	Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
Tue:	St Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-7:59; Matthew 10:17-22
Wed:	St John, Apostle & Evangelist I John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8
Thu:	Holy Innocents, Martyrs I John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Fri:	St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr (No Friday abstinence) Colossians 1:24-29; Luke 22:24-30
Sat:	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas I John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Sun:	The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8-19; Luke 2:22-40
Mon:	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Tue:	St Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors Ephesians 4:1-13; Matthew 23:8-12
Wed:	Christmas Feria I John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
Thu:	Christmas Feria I John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Fri:	Christmas Feria (Friday abstinence) I John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Sat:	Christmas Feria I John 5:5-13; Mark 1:6-11
Sun:	The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-6; Matthew 2:1-12

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

VIGIL MASS

ENTRY

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

Response and acclamation as below

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ENTRY

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

RESPONSE

Today a savior has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

ACCLAMATION

I bring you news of great joy: today a Saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

COMMUNION

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

MASS AT DAWN (8AM)

ENTRY

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

RESPONSE

This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

ACCLAMATION

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

COMMUNION

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the World.

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRY

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

RESPONSE

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

ACCLAMATION

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

COMMUNION

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

ENTRY

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a manger

RESPONSE

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

ACCLAMATION

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.

COMMUNION

Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.