

# JUBILEE 175

## DATES TO SAVE IN YOUR DIARY

**May 1** Jubilee Concert with our own Bobby Chen, piano, featuring the music of Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin and Liszt. This is a fundraiser for the Jubilee 175 Campaign, booking details available on the parish website.

**May 13-14** Exhibition organised by the Province Archives looking at the history of the church as well as that of the Jesuits in London. This exhibition will be repeated 5-7 July and 22-23 October.

**June 7** Summer Party with dancing, at 114 Mount Street. A buffet supper will be generously provided by The Connaught Hotel and Claridge's, with a cash bar. Booking details are now available on the parish website.

**June 9** Parish Picnic in Mount Street Gardens, following the 9.30 Mass and continuing into the late afternoon. Open to all, people are invited to bring a dish (main course, salad, dessert) to share.

**July 31** Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving on the Solemnity of Saint Ignatius, with Bishop Nicholas Hudson, principal celebrant. This Mass will celebrate the opening of the church on 31 July, 1849.

**September 21** Ecumenical pilgrimage to Canterbury, with our friends from Grosvenor Chapel. Open to all, the pilgrimage will begin and end at Canterbury West Station and there will be no charge for the day.

**October 5** Jubilee Ball at the Savile Club, Brook Street. The evening will include a Champagne reception, dinner with wine, live auction, raffle and dancing until 1am. Booking details will be available in the late summer.

**November 2** Walking tour of London sites important to the history of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), from the sixteenth century up to the present day.

**December 9** Solemn Pontifical Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, with Vincent Cardinal Nichols, principal celebrant. This Mass will close our Jubilee Year of celebration and thanksgiving.

### Walsingham Pilgrimage

DAY trip to WALSINGHAM Saturday MAY 11th: coach departs 114 Mount St 8:30am & returns there via drop-off at Victoria Station c 8pm. Please join us on our annual pilgrimage to England's National Shrine of Our Lady in Norfolk. The day includes prayers and talks en route, visits to the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican shrines, optional walking the Holy Mile and free time. Cost: £40 inclusive of buffet lunch. To book email [Walsingham@farmstreetchurch.co.uk](mailto:Walsingham@farmstreetchurch.co.uk) or 'phone Leslie Giltz on 07740 440 949

### A Musical Evening

Join Radio Maria England for the Feast Day of St George on Tuesday, 23rd April at 7:30pm at the London Oratory, Brompton Road for an evening of music, with award-winning pianist Rachael Shipard and singer Christian Jenkins. The programme includes music from Wagner, Schumann, Rachmaninoff & Vaughan-Williams. For tickets, please visit [tinyurl.com/Dreams-April-2024](http://tinyurl.com/Dreams-April-2024)

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from the 19th to 26th July. For more information about this, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or speak to Fr Dominic.

### Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Catholic Association pilgrimage to Lourdes, which includes the Stonhurst pilgrimage, will take place from 23 to 30 August 2004. All are welcome. For more information, email [contact@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@catholicassociation.co.uk) or ask Fr Nicholas King.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.CatholicListeners.com](http://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](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk)



### PARISH OFFICE

**ADDRESS:** 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

**TELEPHONE:** 020 7529 4829

**E-MAIL:** [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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:** 11:00 to 12:00; 17:45 – 17:55

**Sunday:** Fifteen minutes before every Mass  
Also by appointment

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

### YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

#### ENTRY

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia*

#### RESPONSE

*The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.*

#### ACCLAMATION

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!*

#### COMMUNION

*The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia*



## ST GEORGE: A SAINT FOR OUR TIMES

On Tuesday this week, we shall be celebrating the feast of St George, Patron saint of England. He is mentioned in the context of England as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> century, by St Bede, that great English saint and historian, as well as in various other ancient documents; and there are dedications of English churches to him as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Devotion to St George in England seems to go back at least as far as the Crusades, where English soldiers revered him as a warrior saint, and brought devotion to him back from Palestine. His banner is the red cross on a white background that is familiar to many football fans, for example; and was carried on the shield of at least some English soldiers fighting in France. You will remember Shakespeare's version of the cry of the soldiers at Agincourt: "God for Harry, England, and St George". Some soldiers at Agincourt claimed to have seen him fighting on the English side.

Interestingly, it seems to have been during the Reformation that he came to his own as England's main patron saint, displacing Edward the Confessor and Edmund the Martyr, while Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh exported him to the New World. In recent years, he has taken on some political mileage, with various politicians presenting him as a symbol of sometimes rather alarming English nationalism; and nowadays there are many people agitating for April 23<sup>rd</sup> to be restored as a national holiday.

We should be cautious about this, however; for one thing, there is no evidence at all of George ever having been in this country, while for another, there is a clear danger of his being used to fuel ill-tempered tribal loyalty, with the implicit claim that "We are better than you lot", which seems an inappropriate fate for a canonised saint.

What else can we say about him? We are certainly short of facts about him. He is said to come from Lydda (modern Lod) in Palestine; and no doubt he would have views on the appalling devastation currently being inflicted on that sad part of the world. His name means "Farmer", which may not tell us anything at all. He is often depicted as a soldier, carrying his sword; but in fact, part of the legend has him arrested and tortured for refusing to serve in the Roman army under Diocletian. He is said to have been beheaded on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and buried in Lydda. For his courage in standing up for the faith, he might be in these days an example worth following, since this country seems sadly to have forgotten about that faith, with catastrophic results. The Jesuit Bollandist historians established that George had indeed existed, and here at Farm St we revere the happily learned memory of Fr Herbert Thurston SJ, who likewise argued for the ancient memories contained in the tradition, and concluded that there was "no ground for doubting the historical existence of St George".

Then, of course, there is the dragon. As early as the 11<sup>th</sup> Century there was a legend about a fierce dragon

that had been tyrannising the local community. Most of the time the dragon was pacified by being given two sheep to eat; but then they started sacrificing humans, culminating in the choice of the daughter of the king to be a sacrificial victim. George, so the story goes, rescued her by bravely slaughtering the dragon; the king her father was so grateful that he offered George all kinds of treasures, which the hero admirably passed on to the poor. And the inhabitants of the city were so impressed that they all became Christian.

What might he say to us today? We are not compelled to buy into the whole legend; but we should notice that the virtues ascribed to George could help turn around this country today, in a year where there is to be a vote for a new government. He showed appropriate courage to stand out against the powerful; he defended the defenceless, and took care of the poor.

Might we, today, do you think, celebrate the ancient virtues of this country by asking to follow his courage and generosity? Might a slice of George's integrity in our politics make a difference to us all?

### Fr Nicholas King SJ

#### 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 next week for tea, coffee, and fellowship!

#### Cana Lounge Café

The Cana Lounge Café operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. This is a volunteer-run lunchtime café 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 2.30pm.

#### Parish Prayer List

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

#### Liturgical Calendar

**Sun:** Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:8-12; I John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18  
**Mon:** The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus  
Apocalypse 21:1-6, John 19:25-27  
**Tue:** St George, Martyr, Patron of England  
Apocalypse 12:10-12; Luke 9:23-26  
**Wed:** Ss Erkenwald and Mellitus  
Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-50  
**Thu:** St Mark, Evangelist  
I Peter 5:5-14; Mark 16:15-20  
**Fri:** Easter feria (*Friday abstinence*)  
Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6  
**Sat:** St Peter Canisius SJ  
Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14  
**Sun:** Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 9:26-31; I John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

#### 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 in thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Fr Anthony Nye SJ.**

#### 9.30am Mass hymns

<i>Entrance</i>	<b>804</b>	The King of love my Shepherd is
<i>Offertory</i>	<b>600</b>	All that I am
<i>Communion</i>	<b>938</b>	Soul of my saviour
<i>Recessional</i>	<b>970</b>	Be thou my vision

#### Visit Of The Household Cavalry

As a very special treat during our Jubilee Year, on Friday, 3 May, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment will ride from Hyde Park to the Farm Street entrance of the church, where they will remain for twenty minutes, before returning to their barracks. If you would like to greet our soldiers or to feed the horses (apples and carrots will be provided), please be in Farm Street shortly before 8am.

#### Jubilee Concert

Join us for a very special evening of music as we continue to mark and celebrate the 175th anniversary of Farm Street Church. Farm Street has long been regarded for its commitment to music, and so we are delighted to have internationally renowned pianist Bobby Chen performing Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin and Liszt. The concert will take place in Farm Street Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st May. Tickets are £25 which includes a glass of wine after the concert. All proceeds to support the Jubilee 175 Fundraising Campaign. As this is a fundraising event for the parish, tickets are not refundable. To purchase tickets, visit the Farm Street Church website.

#### Hopkins Society Day at Mount Street Jesuit Centre and Farm Street Church

The Hopkins Society UK are meeting in the Loyola Room at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London, on Saturday 27 April 2024: 10:00am - 4:00pm. The poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, was a curate and Select Preacher at Farm Street from July to November 1878, and the day will include: an introductory talk on Hopkins and his time at Farm Street; a visit to the British Jesuit Archives; a lecture on 'Hopkins and the Ignatian Way' by Fr Brendan Staunton, SJ; a buffet lunch; a guided tour of Farm Street Church by Fr Michael Holman, SJ; and a lecture on Hopkins and his sermons. The cost for the day is £40 and £20 for students. For further details, including how to register, please visit the 'Events' section on the Hopkins Society website: [www.hopkinsocietyuk.co.uk](http://www.hopkinsocietyuk.co.uk) or e-mail Elaine at [hopsoc.externalrelations@gmail.com](mailto:hopsoc.externalrelations@gmail.com). All are very welcome, and the closing date for registration is now Thursday 25 April.

#### Holy Land Relief Concert

A concert will be given by the renowned pianist Bobby Chen in aid of humanitarian relief for the Holy Land. This will take place at Farm Street Church on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**. Concert and reception: £50  
Concert only: £25  
Admission by tickets available from [www.eohsj.org.uk](http://www.eohsj.org.uk). All proceeds will be donated to the Humanitarian Relief Fund of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem through the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

#### Faith and Us Talks

We will be reviving our Faith and Us talks for the month of May, which will have a particular focus on faith and mental health. These talks will take place after the 1.05pm Mass on Thursdays in May. The talks will be about fifteen minutes each, with time for Q&A after. More information to come next week!



*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.*

*For more information and to sign up to their mailing list for regular updates on events, please visit [www.londonjesuitcentre.org](http://www.londonjesuitcentre.org).*

*For further information, contact Federica Fiore at [ffiore@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:ffiore@jesuit.org.uk) or on 020 7529 4844.*