

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Fourth Sunday of Easter
25th April 2021

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
Email: farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

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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TELEPHONE: 020 7493 7811
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)

The dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect until further notice. 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 - 1pm

Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

By appointment

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment. Dates are subject to lockdown developments.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

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.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

When I was growing up and in my early adulthood I remember people asking me “if I thought I had a vocation”. It was very clear to me then in the 70s and 80s that what was meant was a calling to be a priest. I’m very grateful for that as it helped me to discern and to choose a way of life I love so much. Without that question being asked in the context of a Christian community there would have been no discernment. Vocations cannot be properly discerned alone with God or with just a few people but only through the community as a whole. As such the parish community is a seedbed for fostering vocations. Through friendship, praying and socialising together, seeing ourselves as we really are in the midst of the community and not just as we think we are, the Christian community helps us as social beings discover who we really are and how we fit into God’s plan.

“Do you think you might have a vocation?” A question I would hope we can all ask but very importantly it needs to be placed in a much wider context than that intended for me as a youngster. In the words of St John Henry Newman every one of us is called to “some definite service” and so we are all called to consider to what we are called. Through my ministry of accompanying others one-to-one and through the friendships I have I’ve learnt just how agonising this can be. It can seem there are too many options: this job or another, marriage to this person now or not yet or never, becoming a priest or sister or brother might be it but my human needs for living together in a more diverse community or the need for intimacy in life make it impossible. I’ve also heard people say they have no options, finding themselves in desolation at not being fulfilled in life, finding that a relationship they are stuck in is dead, being out of work due to the economic downturn and with nothing of use to do, or thinking the path you’ve discerned in life is definitely right but just isn’t open such as for the many who feel called to more defined ministry but seem to be blocked by the Church.

“Do you think you might have a vocation?” The question can be really tough. Once we affirm we all have a vocation we make ourselves vulnerable as it is then that we begin to be honest with God. At this point we need the support of a Christian community which welcomes everyone just as they are with all our longings and unfulfilled desires to discover our

calling to some definite service in this life. St Ignatius and his Spiritual Exercises can help us greatly here as Ignatius teaches us how through prayer and reflection we are to look for God’s light in all aspects of life. We are tempted to come back to the impossible dream of a utopian existence but instead we are called to see what often surprises us as the consolation of God in this life. This call is to discover our destiny not in a vacuum of unfulfilled desires but in the midst of a flawed world, a world which is graced by a God who is incarnate and is risen and brings us always new life but whose grandeur also willingly embraces the cross.

“Do you think you might have a vocation?” The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) document on the Church *Lumen Gentium* (‘Light of the Peoples’) brings closely into focus our common calling expressing our common identity in Christ. It is worth reading as it is a document which calls us to a renewal of our faith in Christ calling each one of us. Each one of us made in God’s image and reborn in Christ has a particular role in the Church by consequence not of ordination or the consent in marriage or religious vows but through our common baptism in Christ. Our conformity to God’s image directs each one of us outwards to our fellow humans. Our vocation is thus rooted in the community of the baptised and, because this gives each one of us a special dignity as bearing Christ, each one of us is called beyond ourselves and our communities to be witnesses in the world to him. Our vocation thus represents a communal call to build up the Kingdom here on the earth.

“Do you know you have a vocation?” As we celebrate Vocations Sunday may we be drawn more deeply into a full appreciation of our personal vocation and its rootedness in Christ, in our community and in our world. As we discern which way we are called at the different stages of our life may we always know the consolation that we are loved and led by the God who became one of us so we may bear his light to all peoples.

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ

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

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Mon: Easter feria
Tue: Easter feria
Wed: Easter feria; St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St Louis de Montford, Priest
Thu: St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor, Patron of Europe
Fri: Easter feria; St Pius V, Pope
Sat: Easter feria; St Joseph the Worker
Sun: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Acts 4:8-12; I John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18
Mon: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10
Tue: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30
Wed: Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-50
Thu: I John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 11:25-30
Fri: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6
Sat: Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14
Sun: Acts 9:26-31; I John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

Have you been away from the Church and seeking a way back to your faith?

Landings, the programme for returning Catholics, is run by regular Church goers and those who themselves have returned after doing the Landings programme. Through a series of storytelling, discussion topics, and prayers returnees are able to have their voices heard through compassionate listening in a confidential space where trust and hospitality are integral.

We know that many have been away from the Church for a while and there is a great yearning to reconnect with their faith, especially after the past year of lockdown and the ensuing isolation.

If you, or anyone you know is considering reconnecting with their faith then do please email Fr. Dominic Robinson at landingsuk@gmail.com or Ruby Almeida at landingsouth@gmail.com

Scripture Speaks

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:11-15

Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day on which we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. There will be an opportunity to donate to the Priest Training Fund at Sunday Mass this weekend. You can also donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

David Low RIP

The funeral of David Low will take place on Friday 30th April at 1pm at the North Chapel at The City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park, E12 5DQ. Many of you will know David, who died on Wednesday 25th March. David was an active parishioner at Farm Street Church, and he will be especially remembered for his kind and generous demeanor, shown especially in his voluntary work for our homeless night shelter and as a receptionist on the front desk. He was also a faithful Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He will be sadly missed.

Up to thirty people are permitted to attend the funeral in person. There are spaces available, so if you would like to attend, please contact The City of London Crematorium. His funeral will also be livestreamed. The details for this are:

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>
Login / Order ID: 91060
Password: vgpdqtez

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of April, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for the recognition and defence of fundamental human rights. We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships and authoritarian regimes. We also pray for democracies in crisis.

Fr Nicholas King SJ

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that Fr Provincial has reassigned Fr Nicholas King, SJ, currently on the university chaplaincy team in Oxford, to join the parish team here at Farm Street from September. We look forward to welcoming Fr King to Farm Street in September

Christian Evening Prayer for the Mayoral Assembly

On the 28th April, from 5pm to 5.45pm, join Christians from across London Citizens as we reflect on the Manifesto, build relationships, and pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in this action. This is an ideal opportunity for non-member Christian leaders to experience something of the work of community organising and Christian mission. Click this link to register: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/christian-evening-prayer-for-the-mayoral-assembly>

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

The Companions of the Order of Malta's Donation hub is looking for donations for the 600 - 800 homeless supported in the hotels.

Hub address: St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR.

Items required: Men's and women's clothes and shoes (not children's clothes please)

Toiletries – unopened please

Entertainment items e.g. books/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items (No Recipe books please)

Please see the times for dropping off donations:

Tuesday 1.30 – 4pm and 6.30 – 7.30pm (by arrangement)

Wednesday 2 – 4pm

Saturday 10 – 11am

Please contact Kate MacKenzie

on companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk if you would like to deliver some donations. Please do not leave them at the church.

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

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 the relevant section of the Government’s website.

Supporting the Parish

We are grateful to everyone who has continued to financially support the church during the 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 can 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 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.

Year of St Joseph

On Thursday 29th April at 7pm, Fr John Hemer MHM will be delivering an online talk on the subject of St Joseph, ‘Who stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments’ (*Patris Corde*). This is a particularly relevant subject as we are currently in the Year of St Joseph. The talk will be delivered via Zoom.

To register, please e-mail catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

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.