

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Palm Sunday
28th March 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
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada, farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

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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.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and the Gospel reading at mass is the Passion of Jesus Christ according to Mark. As Rowan Williams, the former archbishop of Canterbury explains in his “Meeting God in Mark”, this account of the last hours of Jesus’ life has several features which distinguish it from accounts in the other gospels.

For example, in St John’s account, which we will hear read on Good Friday, there is an intense debate between Jesus and Pilate which comes to a climax with the Roman governor’s unforgettable question, “What is truth?” Mark, on the other hand, presents Jesus very differently: we see, writes Williams, the story from the perspective of the victim. Mark’s Jesus is more and more visibly alone: the disciples run away from him, Peter denies him, the high priest’s council condemns him, the soldiers mock him and at the end, with his death on the cross, it seems as though even God has abandoned him: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

It is when he is stripped of all hope, alone and abandoned, that Jesus finally, for the first time in the entire Gospel, declares who he is. “Are you the anointed one, the Son of the Blessed”, Pilate asks. Jesus replies, “I am”.

What does this mean? Surely that Jesus goes to the very limits of human experience, of our experience, and declares, “God is here”. When we too find ourselves alone or otherwise sharing in his hopelessness, he is there with us and, knowing that we can keep going because his presence gives us hope.

In the second reading of this Sunday’s mass, from his letter to the community of Christians in Philippi, Paul encourages us to have “the same mind in you which was in Christ Jesus”. He invites us to live our lives in the way Jesus lived his and that means in some way joining him in his passion and death in order that we may come to the fullness of life with him. In this way, Jesus lives in us and we live in him.

If Jesus fell beneath the weight his cross, not once but three times, we know so many who have done the same and maybe we have as well. If Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross, this past year we have seen so many people do the same as they have gone to the help of those who are sick and those who

are shielding. How many mothers have we known who have had to share in the passion of their sons and daughters as Mary did in the passion of her son? The stations of Jesus’ passion are the stations of many people’s passion today, and the stations of our lives too.

During this Holy Week I suggest we all set aside some time each day to ponder either a part of the passion story as told by Mark or two or three of the stations of the cross. As we reflect, we can consider what Jesus suffered for us and while doing so remember those in hospitals and refugee camps, in war zones or while queuing at food banks, who share in the passion of Jesus today. We can think too of Jesus’ aloneness and remember those times when perhaps we have been deserted by friends, mocked, and even betrayed. Praying in this way will help us have that “same mind which was in Christ Jesus” and will help us, when we too find ourselves at the limits of human experience, to know that Jesus is there with us and so to have hope.

To end, a prayer of Henri Nouwen:

Dear Lord, show me your kindness and gentleness, you who are meek and humble of heart. So often I say, “The Lord loves me”, but time and again I have to confess that I do not let your love descend fully from my mind into my heart. During the coming week, O Lord, I will be able to see again how much you indeed love me. Let this week be an opportunity for me to let go of my resistances to your love and an occasion for you to call me closer to you. Amen.

Fr Michael Holman SJ

Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal

We would like to draw your attention to the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal, which is currently requesting donations. The Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal is a diocesan fund which supports work in areas relating to poverty and homelessness; marriage and family life; youth and evangelization; and education services. A tremendous amount of good work is achieved by projects funded by the Lenten Appeal, which in turn is supported by the generosity of donors. One example of this good work has been the meals provided to the homeless over the past year by Central London Catholic Churches which has, in part, been funded by a very generous grant from the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal.

We would encourage you to visit the following link (<https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal/>) to find out more about the Lenten Appeal.

TRIDUUM AND EASTER 2021

MAUNDY THURSDAY 1st April

No morning Masses.

Confessions: 12 noon – 1pm

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

In accordance with Covid guidelines, there will be no altar of repose this year.

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April

Confessions: 12 noon – 1pm

12 noon: Stations of the Cross.

2pm & 4pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY 3rd April

Confessions: 10am – 12 noon

8.30pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April

Mass: 8am, 9.30am (Family), 11am (Latin), 12.30pm, 5.30pm

EASTER MONDAY to EASTER FRIDAY

5th April to 9th April

Church closed until 11am. Confessions at 12 noon to 1pm and Mass at 1.05pm only, after which the church will be closed.

The Farm Street Singers will provide music at services during the Triduum (except for Good Friday Stations of the Cross). All services will be open to the public and will be livestreamed on our website.

Liturgical Calendar

- Sun:** Palm Sunday
Mon: Monday in Holy Week (Fig Monday)
Tue: Tuesday in Holy Week
Wed: Wednesday in Holy Week (Spy Wednesday)
Thu: Maundy Thursday
Fri: Good Friday
Sat: Holy Saturday
Sun: Easter Sunday

Daily Bible Readings

- Sun:** Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11;
Mark 14:1-15:47
Mon: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
Tue: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-38
Wed: Isaiah 50:4-9; Matthew 26:14-25
Thu: Exodus 12:1-14; I Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-15
Fri: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-5:9;
John 18:1-19:42
Sat: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus
14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11;
Baruch 3:9-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-28
Sun: Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:1-9

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

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

It has become a tradition during Holy Week for us to pray the Stations of the Cross with our friends from the neighbouring Grosvenor Chapel. This year we will be continuing with this tradition, albeit in a virtual way. On Tuesday 30th March at 7pm, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross via Zoom, and all are most welcome to join us. This service will incorporate images of the Stations as well as appropriate recorded music. To request the Zoom link, please contact the parish secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk.

Chrism Mass

The diocesan Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 30th March. Given the restrictions in place, and the need for clergy and representatives of religious and lay faithful to be present, it will not be possible for general members of the public to attend this Mass in person. Nevertheless, all are welcome to watch this Mass on the Westminster Cathedral livestream page. <https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster>

Virtual Altar of Repose

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Bishops' Conference, we will not be having an Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday this year. The Diocese of Westminster is, however, inviting people to unite in prayer via a 'virtual Altar of Repose', which will be livestreamed from 8pm onwards from the Diocesan Shrine to the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane. This will be accessible via the following link <https://corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk/live/>

Scripture Speaks

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of March, Pope Francis encourages us to pray an intention for evangelization, particularly with regards to the sacrament of reconciliation. We pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God

Encounters with Jesus in Lent

Farm Street Church and The Grosvenor Chapel are running a joint Lent reflection course titled 'Encounters with Jesus'. This is being held via Zoom at 8pm on six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on the 24th of February and concluding on the 31st March. The course will reflect on the encounters with Jesus experienced by people in the Gospels and will use the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola as a guide.

Each session will consist of 1.) A Brief Introduction, 2.) A Scriptural Reading, 3.) A 20-minute Guided Meditation on the Reading, 4.) Break out rooms to reflect on the Guided Meditation (20 minutes) with Facilitator in each Group 5.) Return to plenary and Final Prayers.

This Wednesday is the final week, which will focus on Mary's encounter with the risen Jesus as recorded in John 20:11-18.

If you would like to participate in this course, please contact the Parish Secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk for the Zoom details. The course can be joined any stage, so no need to worry if you would like to join after missing several weeks.

Fourth Annual Landings Lecture

The fourth annual Landings Lecture will take place on Friday 23rd April at 7pm. In previous years, the Landings Lectures have taken place at Farm Street Church, London. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the lecture will take place online via Zoom. The speaker this year is Dr Anna Rowlands, a lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Studies and deputy directory of the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University of Durham. The theme she will be addressing is titled, '**Rebuilding the Church for a Change of Era; Pope Francis' vision in 'Fratelli Tutti'**'. If you would like to attend this talk, please book a place via the Eventbrite booking page <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-2021-landings-lecture-tickets-145306185713>. We do ask for a donation to attend this lecture, which will go to support the important work of Landings.

Scripture Speaks

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
Zechariah 9:9

Have you been away for 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 take a Landings card and email

Fr. Dominic Robinson at landingsuk@gmail.com or Ruby Almeida at landingsouth@gmail.com

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

During the first Covid 19 lockdown in the Spring 2020, Companions of the Order of Malta and Westminster City Council worked in partnership to start a donation hub for the homeless. The aim was to streamline the donations available and produce a circular network where the necessary supplies were available to support vulnerable individuals being housed in the hotels and hostels and the street population.

Donation Hub location:

St Joseph's Hall, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR. .

Opening times for receiving donations:

Wednesday 2 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 6.30 – 8pm (by arrangement)

Saturday 10.30am – 2pm.

Please only deliver donations at these times.

Types of Donations:

Toiletries – only unopened items please
Men and women's clothes (no children's clothes please)

Entertainment items e.g. books – fact or fiction/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items (please ensure the books are appropriate eg No recipe books)

Thank you very much for any support you can give.

Contact: Kate MacKenzie at London.companionsofmalta@gmail.com if you have any queries.

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

Good Friday Holy Places Collection

Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, has written a letter to all bishops regarding this year's Holy Places Collection which is to be taken on Good Friday in all churches in England and Wales (and worldwide). A report from the Congregation regarding the support given to the Christian Communities in the Middle East is also included in the attachment to the letter. The Diocese of Westminster has expressed concern that many people may be unfamiliar with the scope and extent of the work supported by the Good Friday collection, and so we are publishing the Cardinal's letter on our website for all to read. It can be read at the following link

<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/weekly-articles-2/letter-from-cardinal-sandri-prefect-of-the-congregation-for-the-oriental-churches-on-the-good-friday-collection>

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

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.