

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Second Sunday in Lent
28th February 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

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH
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, start 7th March)

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.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

For the Second Sunday of Lent each year the Gospel is that of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and they see him in his glory. Moses and Elijah appear and then the disciples hear the Father's voice saying, "This my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him".

The Preface for the Mass tells us the Transfiguration prepares the disciples for the scandal of the cross. So too for us, this scene shows us who Jesus is and points to the meaning of the events of His death and resurrection which this season is preparing us to celebrate.

Perhaps the Transfiguration is particularly appropriate for us this year. Despite signs that things will get easier as the year goes on, Covid19 means we are still living with uncertainty, unable to have the contacts and the life which we would normally enjoy. This can raise all sorts of questions for us. We not only need the reassurance that life may return to some sort of normality, we need something deeper. We need the reassurance of faith, the reassurance that Christ does and will triumph over suffering and death, the reassurance and hope brought to us by the resurrection. Lent is all about deepening that faith and preparing to celebrate that hope. We need to hold on to this deeper truth whatever course the next few months take.

This being Mark's Gospel, the disciples still do not understand. Peter cannot see beyond the moment when he talks about making tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He cannot understand what the Transfiguration says about what is to come or what Jesus is saying about his death and resurrection as they come down from the mountain. In Mark, the disciples do not really understand until after the resurrection. We like them live with uncertainty, often not understanding. The Gospel tells us that after they have heard the Father's voice the disciples look round and "they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus". This is the same Jesus they know and have been journeying with. They are back in their old lives. So too with us, we do not always live on the mountain, do not always live with that kind of profound awareness of the presence of God. However, the story of the Transfiguration does give us a new perspective. Unlike the disciples, we do know the end of the story, we do know about Easter. There are Transfiguration moments in our lives, moments when we encounter God in a powerful way, moments when our faith is strengthened and renewed. In the uncertainty of our daily lives, we need

to go back to those Transfiguration moments and we need to go back to the story in the Gospel. We need this insight into the glory of Christ. We need these signs of hope. As we celebrate this Lent let us ask that it might deepen our faith and gives the hope we need, hope which is founded on the resurrection we are preparing to celebrate.

Fr Chris Pedley SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Second Sunday in Lent
Mon: St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales
Tue: Lent feria
Wed: Lent feria
Thu: Lent feria; St Casimir
Fri: Lent feria
Sat: Lent feria
Sun: Third Sunday in Lent

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Genesis 22:1-18; Romans 8:31-34;
Mark 9:2-10
Mon: Philippians 3:8-14; Matthew 5:13-16
Tue: Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wed: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thu: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Fri: Genesis 37:3-28; Matthew 21:33-46
Sat: Micah 7:14-20; Luke 15:1-32
Sun: Exodus 20:1-17; I Corinthians 1:22-25;
John 2:13-25

Resumption of Public Worship

Following a consultation among the Parish Pastoral Council, the decision has been taken to reopen the church for public Masses and confessions from the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 20th February. We are assured that, following COVID protocol, this is a safe move, and many will appreciate the opportunity to come to Mass and confession in the church as contributing to overall well-being at this difficult time. Our ordinary Mass schedule will resume, and this can be viewed on page 1 of this newsletter. The obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, and we would discourage those who are elderly or vulnerable from travelling to the church, especially if this involves the use of public transport.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at Farm Street Church every Friday at 12 noon during the season of Lent. This can be attended either in person or via the livestream page on our website.

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.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of February, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for women suffering from violence. We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and their sufferings considered and heeded.

Scripture Speaks

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." Psalm 46:1-3

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. Poverty and inequality have risen significantly in London as a result of the pandemic, and this year the Lenten Appeal will focus particularly on families who are struggling to place food on the table.

We would encourage you to visit the following link (<https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal/>) to find out more about the Lenten Appeal and, if you are able to do so, to consider donating to this important fund.

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 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.

The theme of each week will be:

Week 1: Curing of the leper Mk 1:40-45

Week 2: Call of the first disciples Mt 4:18-22

Week 3: Walking on the water Mt 14:22-33

Week 4: Bartimaeus Mk 10:46-52

Week 5: This man was Son of God Mk 15: 33-39

Week 6. Mary at the tomb Jn 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.

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

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

Novena for the Papal Visit to Iraq

In preparation for the Holy Father's visit to Iraq on Friday 5th March, we are currently praying a novena at every Mass at Farm Street Church. This commenced on Wednesday 24th February and will conclude on Thursday 4th March. You are invited to pray this novena with us at the designated time during Mass. We are praying this in communion with the Archdiocese of Erbil and the text is a translation of the the Archdiocese' official prayer for the Apostolic Visit (the original is in Arabic). The text is printed below, but it can also be found on the livestream page of the website:

Lord our God, grant Pope Francis health and safety to carry out successfully this eagerly awaited visit to the nation of Iraq. Bless his efforts to promote dialogue, enhance fraternal reconciliation, build confidence, and consolidate the values of peace and human dignity among the peoples of Iraq, and especially among those Iraqis who have lived through such painful times that have affected their lives so much.

Our Lord and Creator, enlighten the hearts of the people of Iraq with your light, so they may recognize movements towards goodness and peace, and give the people of this country the strength to promote these values in society.

*Mother Mary, we entrust Pope Francis' visit to your maternal care so that the Lord may grant the people of Iraq the grace of living in national communion and inspire them to build a better future together for their country and their people.
Amen.*

Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Aid to the Church in Need's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is due to take place between Friday 12 November and Saturday 20 November 2021. Pilgrims will not only visit Holy sites, but will have the chance to visit ACN projects, as well as meeting with local Church leaders and Christian families.

The pilgrimage will be led by Father Dominic Robinson SJ, ACN UK's National Ecclesiastical Assistant and Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of ACN UK. The nine-day itinerary will take in locations of important religious and historical importance: Bethlehem, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Old City Jerusalem, Qumran, Dead Sea, Galilee, Cana, Nazareth and Tiberias. For more information, please visit <https://acnuk.org/event/aid-to-the-church-in-needs-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-2021/>

Scripture Speaks

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

Novena of Grace

We will be praying the Novena of Grace to St Francis Xavier at every Mass from Thursday 4th March to Friday 12th March. This year we have also invited nine people from around the world to record a short novena video, which will be posted on our website and social media platforms. The text for the novena prayer is printed below, but it will also be posted on the livestream page of our website:

O most kind and loving saint, in union with you I adore the Most Divine Majesty. The memory of the favours with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fills me with joy; and I unite with you in offering to Him my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. I implore of you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession, the all-important blessing of living and dying in a state of grace. I also ask you to obtain the favour I ask in this Novena (here ask the favour you wish to obtain), but if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God or the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both. Amen

O God who was pleased to gather to your Church the peoples of the East by the preaching and miracles of St Francis Xavier, mercifully grant that we, who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Holy Week Book

During Lent last year, Fr Richard Nesbitt, parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima, White City, found inspiration to write a series of 15 poems on the themes of Our Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Through the Friends of the Holy Land charity, a number of people in the Holy Land were then approached to offer their reflections on the Scriptures for Holy Week, the poems and their own personal experiences. The result is *Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land*, a prayerful and timely resource. The proceeds of this book (priced at £7.99 plus postage and packaging) will go to the Friends of the Holy Land to aid their work with the neediest of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. For more information and to order a copy of this book, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/holy-week-voices/>

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.

35,000 items were sorted and packed at St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory from April to July and then delivered to the homeless. The donation hub opened again in November 2020, and we open to receive donations again.

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.

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

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.

Prayer to St Corona

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic. Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those gone astray and, above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St Corona, who gave her life for the love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.

St Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.