

How to be a Synodal Church

Pope Francis calls for all the baptised to be involved in the Synodal Process – are you? Join people from a range of parishes and backgrounds for a day of reflection, conversation, and action to prepare for the October 2024 Synodal Assembly in Rome.

Saturday 10th February 2024

10am (refreshments) for 10.30am – 4pm
Light refreshments provided – bring a packed lunch

The Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street

RSVP – Farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
020 8986 0807

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life

Dates: 16-18 February 2024

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

Laudate Deum Discussion

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith group will be meeting for a discussion on Pope Francis' Laudate Deum. The dates are:

Wednesday 17th January – Chapters 1 & 2

Wednesday 21st February – Chapters 3 & 4

Wednesday 20th March – Chapters 5 & 6

1.30pm – 3pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1EP.

For more information, contact woodhousesopten@btinternet.com.

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

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.

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



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th January 2024

YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High.

RESPONSE

*Here I am Lord!
I come to do your will.*

ACCLAMATION

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.*

COMMUNION

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

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



A TIME FOR HOPING

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, a former chief Rabbi of The United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, was a wonderfully wise man. One of the widely acknowledged religious leaders in this country until his death three years ago, he regularly shared his “thought for the day” on the BBC Radio 4 programme “Today”.

Not so long ago, when browsing in the Oxford book shop on Marylebone High Street, I came across a collection of his early morning reflections which had intriguing title, “From Optimism to Hope”.

“Optimism and hope are not the same”, he writes. Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. Consequently, “it needs no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to hope. The Hebrew Bible is not an optimistic book. It is, however, one of the great literatures of hope”.

To be people of hope, all you need is something very small. In the wreckage of the temple in Jerusalem, after it had been destroyed by Antiochus in the second century BC, the Jews found a single cruse of oil still undefiled. With it they were able to relight the menorah, the temple candelabrum. “This is why at Hannukah the Jews still light candles in their homes”, writes Lord Sacks. “What Hannukah tells us is that it isn't always the big events that make a difference in the long run. It's sometimes the small miracles that endure.”

After 9/11, newspaper columnists wrote about how future historians would look back and call that age the “age of anxiety”. How much more might they say that of today! How do you live with the fear that terror creates, he asks? “Faith is the courage to live with uncertainty, knowing that God is with us on that tough but necessary journey to a world that honours life and treasures peace”.

Especially relevant to us today, is a story he tells about his great-grandfather. He left Lithuania to settle in Palestine in the middle years of the 19th century. His great-grandfather's hope was that no one should be dispossessed but that together, Jews and Arabs might “make that ancient land flower again”. Alas, his great-grandfather's hopes were dashed and his family needed to seek

refuge in the UK. Rabbi Sacks then goes on, “From war, no one gains. From peace, everyone benefits. You see it wherever you look in the pages of history and wherever you travel throughout the world”.

Why, then, is it so hard to make peace? He says that his great-grandfather would have had a simple answer. “Whenever Jews pray, we end with a prayer for peace and at that point we take three steps backwards. To make peace you have to make space for someone else. You have to give up a little of your dream for the sake of someone else's dream”. He ended his reflection praying for the leaders of the Middle East that “through the walls of mutual suspicion they finally build the gateway of hope”.

We are still wishing one another a “Happy New Year” and we so much want this year to be better than the last. We are all looking forward in hope above all to an end to the violence that afflicts too many parts of the world, most of all Ukraine, and of course the Holy Land as well, a land which means so much to Jews and Muslims and Christians. And with regard to this hope, I think Rabbi Sacks' words in this little book are pure gold.

Fr Michael Holman 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 for tea, coffee, and fellowship!

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.

Churches Together in Westminster AGM

This will take place at 6pm on Monday 22nd January in the Arrupe Hall at 114 Mount Street. The AGM will be followed by a talk entitled ‘The Art of Believing’ given by Fr Patrick van der Vorst. Everyone most welcome.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
I Samuel 3:3-19; I Corinthians 6:13-20; John 1:35-42
Mon: **Feria**
I Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22
Tue: **Feria**
I Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28
Wed: **St Anthony**
I Samuel 17:32-51; Mark 3:1-6
Thu: **Feria**
I Samuel 18:6-19:7; Mark 3:7-12
Fri: **Feria; St Wulstan; Ss Stephen Pongracz SJ, Melchior Grodziecki SJ, & Mark Krizevci**
(Friday abstinence)
I Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19
Sat: **Feria; St Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St Sebastian, Martyr; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
II Samuel 1:1-27; Mark 3:20-21
Sun: **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Jonah 3:1-10; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

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 for the gifts that come with opportunities to work with the poor.

Parish Prayer List

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

Icon Blessings

On the Sunday the 28th January, we will be welcoming Fr Stefan Ponjarac from the Serbian Orthodox Community to bless the icons currently on display in the ground floor gallery as part of the ‘On Earth as it is in Heaven’ exhibition by Dr Irina Bradley. The blessing will take place after the 11am Mass.

Solemn Evensong for

Week of Prayer of Christian Unity

Solemn Evensong will be celebrated at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, at 3.30pm on Sunday 21st January. The preacher will be The Reverend Dr Robin Hill, minister of Gladsmuir Kirk, Edinburgh. All most welcome.

FARM STREET PARISH FILM CLUB

Tim Hetherington Film Club at Farm Street, 114 Mount St W1K 3AH

Next showing: **Arrupe Hall 6.30pm for 7.00pm on Thursday 25 January 2024**

Cost: free – with drinks and refreshments (donations welcome)

Presenting: ‘**Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom**’ (2hr 21min)

Booking invited (but not necessary) at dthurst52@gmail.com

On 10 May 2024 it will be 30 years since Nelson Mandela became the first black (Xhosa) president of South Africa. In 1993 with FW de Klerk, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace for the peaceful termination of apartheid and for laying the foundations of democratic South Africa.

This impressive 2013 biographical film stars Idris Elba and Naomi Harris and was based on the book written by Mandela himself. It chronicles his early life, education, coming of age and revolutionary struggle before he spent 27 years in prison and then, after his release, became President of South Africa, working to rebuild a country ravaged by Apartheid. The film is not based on Mandela's life but on his own words; criticism levelled at Mandela's autobiography can also be directed at the film.

To put across today's views on the great man by young people in South Africa, I will share for discussion a newspaper article quizzically entitled, ‘Mandela magic – I not so sure!’ **Notably, Nelson Mandela is the ONLY person to unveil their own statue in Parliament Square.**