

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
16th January 2022

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Nicholas King SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Fr Laco Sulik SJ; Fr Michael Bossy SJ

PARISH STAFF

George McCombe, Parish Secretary
Email: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

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,
Email: farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin,
Email: farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Tim Hetherington Film Club at Farm Street

Next showing: Arrupe Hall 6.30pm for 7.00pm on Thursday 27 January
Cost: free refreshments (donations welcome)
Presenting: 'Pope Francis - a Man of his Word' (95 min)

Following the last club meeting where we showed 'The Two Popes', the film club continues the papal theme, this time with an excellent documentary.

Written and directed by Wim Wenders, 'Pope Francis - a Man of his Word' is a 2018 co-production with the Vatican. Pope Francis' ideas and his message are central to this documentary, which sets out to present his work of reform and his answers to today's global questions from death, social justice, immigration, ecology, wealth inequality, materialism and the role of the family.

Book online: EventBrite address TBC
With a Covid maximum attendance of 25, please register at Event Brite (Details to follow) For more information email David at dthurst52@gmail.com

Peace Sunday

Today is Peace Sunday and this year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace'.

The need for peace in the world is obvious. People are struggling against violence and conflict, growing inequalities, the effects of climate change and the covid pandemic. How can we harness the gifts and energy of all generations in the work of peacemaking? Which 'tools for building lasting peace' do you think Pope Francis might be talking about?

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which does a great deal of good work to promote peace and nonviolence through parishes, schools and social media.

For more information about Pax Christi, please visit their website www.paxchristi.org.uk

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfw67x>

Synod over-65s Event Postponed

The over-65s synod listening meeting, due to take place on the 17th January, has been postponed due to the Covid situation. A new date will be announced in due course.

Metamorphosis Icon Exhibition

We are delighted at Farm Street Church to be hosting 'Metamorphosis', an icon exhibition by Dr Irina Bradley. Irina is one of the leading iconographers in the UK and her works have been exhibited at Buckingham Palace, Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford, Cumberland Lodge in Great Windsor Park, and other prestigious venues.

There are approximately 75 pieces in this new exhibition, including a new icon of St Magnus Erlendsson, which can be viewed in the Art Corridor at 114 Mount Street. The exhibition is open to the public at the following times:

Saturdays – 11am to 8pm

Sundays – 11am to 8pm

Weekdays – 8am to 8pm (Friday 14th January, 8am to 4pm only)

The exhibition is absolutely beautiful and is sure to lift the hearts of anyone who views it. Some photographs of the exhibition are available to view on the parish website.

Churches Together in Westminster

The CTiW 2022 AGM will take place on Monday, 17th January at 6pm via Zoom.

Following the AGM there will be talks exploring how to make your church more environmentally-friendly following Cop26, including how to become an EcoChurch and how to get involved in Citizens UK Just Transition campaign.

Speakers will include

- Helen tephens, Church Relations Manager, A Rocha UK introducing EcoChurch;
- Rev Simon Woodman, Minister, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, on Citizens UK JustTransition campaign;
- Rev Joan Ishibashi, St James Piccadilly on becoming an EcoChurch

Register for the Zoom link at www.ctiw.london/2021/ctiw-agm-and-talks

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)

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; 5.45pm – 6pm
Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

YEAR C

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

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among the peoples.

ACCLAMATION

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: 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.



BEGINNING WHERE WE LEFT OFF

Just recently, I have been reading a collection of sermons preached in the Memorial Chapel of Harvard University by Rev Peter Gomes. It has the title “Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living” and I was put onto it by a chance conversation after mass one Sunday with a former student of that university who recommended the book to me.

One homily which has particularly caught my attention is called, “Beginning where we left off” and it concerns how we often react to this time of year as Christmas ends and we get back into the ordinary routine of daily life.

Often the days of Christmas seem to fly by. Sometimes our expectations of them were met; sometimes, even often, they fell below expectations and for many of us this past Christmas, like the last, was lived very much in the shadow of the virus. But whatever our Christmas was like, this time of year can seem flat, and we can find ourselves asking, or at least I do, “How does my celebration of Christmas make a difference to how I ordinarily go about my life?”. I am grateful to Peter Gomes because he made me face up to that question and look for answers.

As I have been thinking about the Gospels we have been reading at mass over the past fortnight, what has struck me is that so much of the Christmas story deals with the tougher side of life. Mary and Joseph have, in their different ways, had their lives turned upside down by what the Lord has asked of them. The requirements of the Emperor Augustus for a census sent them on a long journey just as Mary was to give birth and by the time her time came, the family was homeless. After the birth, they found themselves surrounded by shepherds, the poorest and some say the outcasts of society. Before long they became refugees escaping the violence unleashed by a tyrant king concerned only for himself and his own power.

In other words, the Christmas story confronts us with life in the raw. But it does more than that: it also shows us how God makes himself present in a unique way in the tougher times of life and how he lives amongst people doing their best to be faithful to him amidst uncertainty and suffering. In every representation of the nativity which I have looked at this Christmas, and like you I have seen many of them, I have been struck by the

peace and serenity that shines from Mary’s face as she treasures, as St Luke says, all these things in her heart. Maybe this serenity comes from knowing that even when we need to cope with all the upheavals and uncertainties of life, the Lord is present. My novice master decades ago used frequently to refer to the “God who is on our side, always deeply on our side”: the Christmas stories speak of that God, very powerfully.

So, I have found that in order to discover how Christmas makes a difference to ordinary life, I need to place to one side the holly and mistletoe, the fairy lights and the baubles on the tree, however charming they may be, and come face to face with some of the realities of life with which the story confronts us. Then I discover, and I hope you will also, that in the uncertainties and upheavals of this present time, we can nonetheless encounter the God who is on our side, so deeply on our side that he chose to be born a fragile and vulnerable child, and all for us. And because we know this, we can return to the world to live as his disciples, somewhat transformed, stronger and more confident, to begin again where we left off.

Fr Michael Holman SJ

The Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of January 2022, we pray for true human fraternity. Let us pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Fr Michael O’Halloran SJ Memorial

A memorial Mass will be celebrated for Fr Michael O’Halloran SJ RIP on Monday 24th January at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday Refreshments

Due to the rise of the Omicron variant of Covid, Sunday refreshments will be suspended until at least the end of January 2022.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon: St Anthony, Abbot
Tue: Feria
Wed: Feria; St Stephen Pongrácz SJ & Companions; St Wulstan, Bishop
Thu: Feria; St Fabian, Pope & Martyr; St Sebastian, Martyr
Fri: St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Sat: Feria; St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
Sun: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Isaiah 62:1-5; I Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11
Mon: I Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22
Tue: I Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28
Wed: I Samuel 17:32-51; Mark 3:1-6
Thu: I Samuel 18:6-19; Mark 3:7-12
Fri: I Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19
Sat: I Samuel 1:1-27; Mark 3:20-21
Sun: Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10; I Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

Synod on Synodality

The Catholic Church is currently in a process of listening in preparation for the Synod on Synodality. The Pope has made it clear that this is a journey in which all people are invited to participate. Here at Farm Street Church, we have a team of people working on our parish response to this invitation. We need to hear your views on the wider Church. Please pick up a questionnaire at the back of the church, fill it in, and deposit it in the marked box (also at the back of the church). You can also download a form on our website homepage and e-mail it to us. The Westminster Synod Team will start collating responses on 22nd January and try to finalise their Synthesis by 29th January 2022.

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

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Carmine di Cesare, Marie Carroll Copestake, Dietra Breedon, Michael Gill, Chris Hicks, Danny Rutilio, and Alan Stewart.
The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. Psalm 41:3

White Flower Appeal 2022

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the weekend of the **6th February**. SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life Speech. Pro-life witness is being restricted now more than ever; we must be able to speak freely to protect unborn babies. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC protect unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed from the 18th to the 25th January. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness. For more information, please visit www.ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/

London Jesuit Centre

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 <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/>. For more information, contact Anne Paolino at apaolino@jesuit.org.uk.

Face Covering Notice

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respect the safety of all, we request that you wear a face covering in the church, unless you are exempt from doing so. Thank you for your cooperation.