

### Christmas Cards

The Farm Street Christmas card is available for sale in Reception during the week and in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30 and 11.00 Masses. Cards are priced at £2.50 individually and at £12.00 for a box of six.

### Farm Street Church Carol Service

Farm Street Church will be having its own parish service of nine lessons and carols on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm. Music will be provided by the renowned Farm Street Choir. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Arrupe Hall. All are most welcome. Do come along for what is sure to be an enjoyable and festive evening.

### 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. **The café will be closed from the 8<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.** We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

### Icon Exhibition – On Earth as it is in Heaven

An exhibition of icons and contemporary art by Irina Bradley will be displayed in the Ground Floor Gallery at 114 Mount Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> December to the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 10am-7pm, Monday to Friday; 9am – 3pm Saturday; By appointment on Sunday. [www.irinabradley.com](http://www.irinabradley.com)

### Night Shelter Volunteers

Farm Street Church is intending to participate in a night shelter during the coldest winter months. This will involve having homeless guests sleep in various venues around the city and will be modelled on the winter night shelter that we ran at 114 Mount Street from 2015 to 2019. Volunteers will be needed for this. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Fr Dominic or send an email to [centrallondoncatholicchurches@gmail.com](mailto:centrallondoncatholicchurches@gmail.com)

### SVP Vinnie Packs

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you.

### 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](mailto:homeofficevigil@gmail.com)

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

The Mass times for the Christmas period will be as follows:

- \*Christmas Eve – 8am, 9.30am, 11am, & 12.30pm Mass (Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.) as normal
  - 4pm, First Vigil Mass of Christmas
  - 6pm, Children’s Mass
  - 11.30pm, Carols
  - Midnight Mass
- \*Christmas Day – 8am, Mass (Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec)
  - 9.30am, Family Mass
  - 11am, Solemn Mass
  - 12.30pm, Mass
  - 5.30pm, Mass
- \* Boxing Day to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – 1.05pm Mass only
- \* Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> – Normal Mass schedule
- \* Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January – 12 Noon Mass with music
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Normal schedule resumes

Please note that there will be no 7pm Young Adult Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### 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](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.CatholicListeners.com](http://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](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk)



### Second Sunday of Advent 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### YEAR B TODAY'S RESPONSES

##### ENTRY

*O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

##### RESPONSE

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

##### ACCLAMATION

*Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.*

##### COMMUNION

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

#### PARISH OFFICE

**ADDRESS:** 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

**TELEPHONE:** 020 7529 4829

**E-MAIL:** [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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



## WAITING AND BEING PREPARED

'..while you wait and long for the Day of God to come...' says the Second Letter of Peter in today's second reading. We are in a time of waiting and being prepared to celebrate the coming of Our Lord at Bethlehem and at the end of time. The shops in Oxford Street and Regent Street couldn't wait. For six weeks now their Christmas lights and decorations have been inciting people to shop. Of course, in a time of economic uncertainty they serve a good purpose and keep people in work. For many people Christmas is a family celebration but not religious, with some nostalgia perhaps when they hear Christmas carols while they shop.

For us it is very different. The beauty of the Advent Liturgy encourages us to a spiritual waiting and being prepared, to focus on Our Lord, to give Him some time and space at this busy time of preparation for Christmas, our family feast. Three people can help us to do this by their prayers and example, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph.

John the Baptist's whole life is a dedicated focus on Our Lord. Even in the womb he was blessed, at Our Lady's Visitation. Like the prophets before him he was prepared in the wilderness to listen in silence and solitude to God's message which he was to pass on to the people. In the words of his father Zechariah:

'To make known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high.'

Mary and Joseph help us to focus on Jesus prayerfully and silently. Our Lady was prepared by God's grace to be free from sin at the moment of her conception and so to be a fit temple to receive the Son of God in her womb. That is what we celebrated last Friday on the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our church. Joseph was prepared by an angel speaking to him in a dream to stay with Mary and support her despite his mental turmoil at finding her unmarried and with child. He was given the strength and faith to accept her child as Emmanuel, God with us, throughout her pregnancy.

In his Spiritual Exercises St. Ignatius Loyola asks us to imagine their journey together to Bethlehem, with the hardships they have to put up with, before Our Lord is born in utter destitution. He concludes, in great simplicity 'After all His labours, after suffering from hunger and thirst, heat and cold, being treated with injustice and insulted. He is to die on the Cross-and all for me. Thinking of all this, I will derive some benefit for my soul.'

(From a translation made by Fr. Tom Corbishley, S.J., former parish priest of Farm Street, in 1963.)

**Fr Tony Nye SJ**

*From the archives. First published 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.*

### Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are normally served in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30am, 11am and 5.30pm Sunday Masses (second & fourth Sunday only for 5.30pm).

### Liturgical Calendar

<b>Sun:</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Isaiah 40:1-11; II Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
<b>Mon:</b>	<b>Advent feria; St Damascus I, Pope</b> Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
<b>Tue:</b>	<b>Advent feria; Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
<b>Wed:</b>	<b>St Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> II Corinthians 10:17-11:2; Matthew 25:1-13
<b>Thu:</b>	<b>St John of the Cross, Priest &amp; Doctor</b> I Corinthians 2:1-10; Luke 14:25-33
<b>Fri:</b>	<b>Advent feria (Friday abstinence)</b> Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Sat:</b>	<b>Advent feria</b> Ecclesiasticus 48:1-12; Matthew 17:10-13
<b>Sun:</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)</b> Isaiah 61:1-11; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-28

### Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Marie Carroll Copestake, Felicity Ann Croft, Kyllikki Edelshain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Helen Murphy, 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*

### 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 by an individual in thanksgiving in working with our poorest children.**

### Christmas No. 1

'Hard Times' is the new single from London-based band Ooberfuse and American rapper, Snoop Dogg. The proceeds from sales will go to support the work of Central London Catholic Churches based at Farm Street Church. This is a **very** exciting project for us at Farm Street, and we hope it will go a long way to raising awareness for the plight of the homeless and supporting the good work that takes place here at Farm Street. Help us to get this single to No. 1 by downloading on Amazon and iTunes.

# JUBILEE 175

Farm Street Church opened its doors on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1849, the Solemnity of Saint Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. Our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year commenced on Friday, our patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a Solemn Mass celebrated by His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St James's.

The celebrations will continue throughout the coming year and will, we hope, involve all of our parishioners and friends. These are just a few of the highlights:

- A walk to various sites important to the history of the Jesuits in London
  - A fundraising concert by Bobby Chen, piano, in April
  - A sponsored walk in the spring for the children of the parish
- An exhibition on the history of our church, organised by the Provincial Archives
  - The Jubilee Mass on 31<sup>st</sup> July, the centrepiece of our anniversary year
  - The Jubilee Ball on 5<sup>th</sup> October at the Savile Club
- A Solemn Mass celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, which will close the Jubilee year

We are also launching an anniversary campaign to raise £175,000 in 2024. These funds will then be divided among a number of important parish projects:

- Refurbishment of the wooden floor of the church
- Essential repair work to the roof of the church building
  - Continuing reduction of the parish deficit
- Support of Catholic Listeners, a recent initiative of the parish
  - Ongoing charitable works of the parish

All may wish to consider supporting us by making a donation, however large or small, to this campaign and all contributions received before the first of July will be gratefully acknowledged in the order of service of the Jubilee Mass. Donations received after then will be acknowledged in the order of service of our patronal feast in December. Donors may also remain anonymous.

*Bronze Patrons (£1-£99)*

*Silver Patrons (£100-£999)*

*Gold Patrons (£1,000-£4,999)*

*Platinum Patrons (£5,000+)*

A leaflet is being prepared, which will give further details about how to make a donation as well as more information about the designated projects, and will be available in the church and on the parish website in the new year.

**AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM**