

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

We will be celebrating our Patronal Feast on Thursday 8th December. Mass will be celebrated at 8am, 1.05pm and 7pm (please note that this is *instead* of the usual 6pm Mass). The preacher at the 7pm Mass will be Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Holy Family of London. A reception will take place in the Arrupe Hall after the 7pm Mass. All most welcome.

The Fragile Line By Andrew White

We are pleased to say that we will be hosting an exhibition by Andrew White titled, 'Homelessness in Drawings and Sculpture' from **October 17th – 6th January 2023**. The exhibition will be displayed in the ground-floor corridor.

Confirmations 2023

The next programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation for teenagers (aged 14+) begins on the 29th January 2023. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at Farm Street Church on the 25th June 2023. For more information and to register, please contact Leninha.

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 13th 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

*Christmas Eve – 4pm, First Vigil Mass of

Christmas

– 6pm, Children's Mass

– 11.30pm, Carols

– Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day – 8am, Mass

– 9.30am, Family Mass

– 11am, Solemn Latin Mass

– 12.30pm, Mass

– 5.30pm, Mass

* Boxing Day to

Friday 30th – 1.05pm Mass only

* Saturday 31st

& Sunday 1st January – Normal Mass schedule

* Monday 2nd January – 1.05pm Mass only

Tuesday 3rd January – Normal schedule resumes

Please note that there will be no 7pm Young Adult Mass on the 25th December or 1st January.

Christmas Activities for Children

1) Children's Christmas Play (6pm Mass on Christmas Eve): If you wish your child/ children to take part in the Christmas play, which is an integral part of the 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass, please fill the form (available at the back of the church and at the reception) and submit it to Leninha Assis (Catechist), by the 15th December. The rehearsal dates for the play are: 23rd December from 10.30am-11.30am and 24th December at 5pm leading into the 6pm Mass.

2) Christmas Gifts: The offering of the gifts for children at Christmas last year was a great success, with all gifts given to the Catholic Children's Society. Toys will be collected this year for the Catholic Children's Society of Westminster at the 9.30 Mass on Sunday, 11 December and delivered to the Society the following day. Toys must be brand new and may be left unwrapped. If wrapped, they should be labelled with what is inside as well as the appropriate age and gender of the intended child. Toys may also be left at Reception on Monday to Friday of this week.

3) Christmas Choir: "Come and sing a song of Christmas, come and praise Him all the earth". All the children are invited to join the First Holy Communion group to sing Christmas carols in the Hall on the 18th December, after 9:30am Mass.

For further information regarding any of the above, contact Leninha Assis.

Monthly Vigil Outside Home Office

Next vigil October 19th 2022

Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF

You are invited to the Prayer Vigil from 12.30-1.30pm. Normally every third Monday of the month We remember ♦ those who have died trying to reach the UK, ♦ the many victims of the war in Ukraine ♦ those who work with asylum seekers in detention centres, and those who are homeless ♦ Those who struggle to inject welcome and humanity into our legislation. For further information contact johanmaertens@hotmail.com or barbarakentish@talktalk.net

Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners, the new confidential helpline launched this year during Holy Week. The service which is part of the Diocese of Westminster, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith as well as to support those who need someone to talk to. 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, there is a professional team trained in signposting callers to other services and agencies. For further information please email Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or call us on 0800 448 0704

Catholic Listeners are here to listen.

Charity Ball Raffle Prizes

A full list of raffle prizes and winning numbers is available at the entrances of the church and on the parish website.



Second Sunday of Advent 4th December 2022

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest

Fr Nicholas King SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr David Birchall SJ; Fr Michael Bossy SJ

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ;

Fr Laco Sulik 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada,

Email: farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin,

Email: farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

TELEPHONE: 020 7529 4829

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 – 12.55pm

Saturday: 10am to 12 noon; 5.45pm – 5.55pm

Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass

Also by appointment

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

YEAR A

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

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

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.



REPENTANCE

We set out on a spiritual journey last week with a firm resolution to walk and find God anew. The Advent season we celebrate really does mark all of our lifetime until we come into full communion with God. We need these special occasions to raise our awareness of what is going on more deeply and commit ourselves more fervently. The journey continues until we breath our last, so we must carry on encouraging one another to allow the better part of ourselves to surface.

Even when we look at the readings to mark the second Advent Sunday, they cascade just like any journey with its ups and downs and twists and turns. Prophecy speaks of something that is new and sprouting; it talks of someone coming in history with integrity and justice (cf. Is 11:1). That person is a signal to everyone that God is faithful to His people and never seeks to abandon them. As we are journeying through this life, it seems helpful to realize a couple of moments the Scripture offers us today through the prophet Isaiah:

1. Looking up to someone who has been promised by God and preached about by prophets. He is the man of integrity and justice who will put to rest all of our inadequacies we suffer from and injustices we cause to one another. He is the promise of being liberated.

2. God's presence in the world takes on many forms and we need to figure out God's communication with us, especially when He seems absent.

It's no surprise that this basic message leads us to a twofold positive realization of hope and repentance, and it serves as an inspiration to go on walking the journey we set out on last week.

As we sing the Psalm about justice and peace, our cascade falls on the virtue of hope. Just St Paul urged Romans, he appeals to us to cherish hope, "Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God." (Rom15:4)

We are no longer at the start of our walking and therefore we need a way to check in where we are. Ignatius calls "consolation every increase of faith, hope, and love, and all interior joy that invites and attracts to what is heavenly and to the salvation of one's soul by filling it with peace and quiet in its Creator and Lord." (SpEx 316) This time of Advent journey is to check in whether we are moving and in what direction. Are we making progress?

It is no surprise for us that the Church's liturgy chooses to challenge us this week. This is all for our own good because only from the hope promise we embrace the Gospel calling to repent and change.

We may think of change as something to achieve or indeed difficult to achieve. The singular and extraordinary example of John the Baptist calling us to adopt repentance as a way of living and himself living off in simplicity does not exactly build confidence that a change in our humble endeavour is possible. John was a huge achiever by living in the extreme of desert, not preaching in the Holy City of Jerusalem, being apart from the Temple and away from the court. He embodies the voice that cries in wilderness to

prepare the way for the Lord's coming (cf. Is 40:3) and remains an authority among prophets to this day.

Perhaps if we think of conversion in terms of compassion, we may be able to turn away for the time being from the laws and authorities that hold us to a certain conduct and thus risking to become ineffective in our spiritual journey. Instead, we may want to focus more on our personal vocation, response to what the journey towards God offers us with a vision to build community anew again starting from myself. We can only draw from strength and inspiration to keep our motivation going as we tread through all sorts of difficulties in the Advent of our life. Always allowing God to change us brings gradually our baptismal promises to fulfilment. And God is changing us, our faith hope and love in God in Trinity grows, matures and comes across as more intriguing in a wider society if not credible. An attitude of conversion sustains us and brings others closer to the Lord and His Goodness.

Where is my Advent path taking me?
What emotional response do I experience to this journey?
How can I practice compassion to sustain my Advent journey?

Fr Ladislav Sulik SJ

Sunday Refreshments

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

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	94	On Jordan's bank
Offertory	609	In bread we bring you, Lord
Communion	627	This is my body
Recessional	100	Come thou long expected Jesus

11am Music List

Mass	Missa Dixit Maria Hassler
Motets	Vigilate Byrd Beata viscera Byrd
Post-communion hymn	92 Hark! A herald voice is calling

A Lamp For Our Lady

To give honour to Our Lady, a lamp will now burn before her statue in the sanctuary. A 7-day lamp will be lit every Saturday, the day traditionally devoted to the Blessed Virgin, and burn throughout the week. An offering of £10 is requested to light this lamp, the intention of which will be printed every week in the Newsletter or may be kept anonymous (e.g. 'An anonymous donor for a private intention'). Please email the Parish Secretary (FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk) with your requested week and intention as well as how you wish it to be published.

The lamp this week is lit by Tadi Kassaye in thanksgiving to the Lord for all her blessings.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Second Sunday of Advent
Mon: Advent feria
Tue: Advent feria; St Nicholas, Bishop
Wed: St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor
Thu: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri: Advent feria; St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (*Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Advent feria; Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto
Sun: Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Daily Readings

Sun: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Mon: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tue: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wed: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
Thu: Genesis 3:9-20; Ephesians 1:3-12; Luke 1:26-38
Fri: Luke 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Sat: Ecclesiasticus 48:1-12; Matthew 17:10-13
Sun: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Susan Carpenter, Marie Carroll Copestake, Maggie Danby, Paul Johnson, Erin Lillis, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigussie, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Leopold, & Nick Walker. *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. Peter Wooloughan
Requiescat in pace

Can you help in some market research?

This year is the 10th anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to be part of a focus group happening in the coming fortnight to get in touch. There are three Zoom focus groups to choose from: Thursday 1, Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December from 6.30-7.45pm. Your opinion would be very helpful. If you would like to take part, please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, at juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk

Jesuit Archives Open Day

The British Jesuit Archives situated at 114 Mount Street are delighted to be able to offer an 'open house' day on Tuesday 6th December to show you around the renovated archives. There will also be a small display of some of the wonderful items we are privileged to care for. Please feel free to pop by between 11.00 to 18.00 that day.

Can you help?

We have been contacted by a priest based in Birmingham, who is looking for a room in London for two nights for a Ukrainian family (a mother and 13-year-old daughter). This family has fled war-torn Ukraine and are currently in Birmingham, but would love to have a short holiday in London. The nights they hope to be in London are the 30th and 31st December. If you can provide accommodation, please contact the parish office.

The Oaklings

Are any Roman Catholic women based in Islington (N1 surrounds) who would like to join the Oaklings? We are a small, fun group of youngish women who meet for fellowship, prayer and good deeds. We are inspired by the legend of Our Lady of Islington.

Legend has it that the Virgin Mary appeared in an oak tree on Upper St and that there was a shrine dedicated to her at St Marys. It is one of at least 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary in oak trees since the 1st C AD. The oak tree was believed by the Greeks to have its roots in Tartarus and its branches in heaven. It is thought to represent eternal love.

The group is open to women only, Islington residents only, loyal to Church teachings. Our local parish is St Johns Islington but we belong to various parishes and seek a local 'home' group for faith sharing. We usually meet in a private home on some Marian feast days and the third Friday of the month to share and pray for Islington and each other. There is often supper! If you would like to be included please DM Fiona on 07977 538424.



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. Below is a sampling of some upcoming events. 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 Federica Fiore at ffiore@jesuit.org.uk.

Catholics and the Monarchy in Britain

A lively debate on Monday 12th December at 7pm. With: Mary Kenny
Journalist and historian and author of "Crown and Shamrock: Love and Hate between Ireland and the British Monarchy"
Peter Stanford
Former editor of the Catholic Herald, journalist, and author of several biographies of prominent British Catholics including Cardinal Basil Hume, Bronwen Astor, and Lord Longford. His most recent book, "If these Stones Could Talk" provides a history of Christianity in Britain and Ireland based on the history of individual churches.

Jon Cruddas MP
MP for Dagenham and Rainham, who has described his career in politics as a natural extension of his upbringing within the Irish-Catholic diaspora.

Chaired by Aidan Cottrell-Boyce.

Register on www.londonjesuitcentre.org