

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

Charity Concert

A fundraising concert at Farm Street Church featuring renowned pianist Bobby Chen in aid of Jesuit Missions' Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal and Jesuit Refugee Services in Syria. This will take place on Monday, 20th March at 7pm. It will be followed by a wine reception in the Arrupe Hall. Tickets are £50. To purchase a ticket, please visit www.farmstreet.org.uk.

Jesuit General Visit

Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, the thirty-first and current superior general of the Society of Jesus, will be visiting in the UK in April. As part of his visit, he will be celebrating the 1.05pm Mass on Friday 14th April. All are welcome to attend this significant occasion.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS

"Byways of Westminster" – come and discover the hidden gems of one of the world's great cities!

We will discover 17th century charity schools, 19th century Cardinals, and a Medieval mill! The Walk will finish in the Victoria Tower Gardens, alongside Parliament.

This History Walk is being repeated a further two times so as to offer different opportunities for people to attend

Thursday March 9th Meet 3pm, steps of Westminster cathedral

Friday March 17th Meet 6pm (after 5.30pm Mass) steps of Westminster Cathedral

NO NEED TO BOOK: just turn up! We suggest a donation of £5 per person
www.catholichistorywalks.org

SVP Volunteering

The St Vincent de Paul Society have a small programme for befriending of lonely and vulnerable people. This involves a weekly or fortnightly visit to a person in their home. If you would be interested to find out more about this, please contact Sandra McNally on s.mcnally1@lse.ac.uk or phone 07779 078933. Please note that volunteers will need to get a DBS check organised with the help of the parish safeguarding officer.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Farm Street Charity Ball will take place on Saturday, 7th October at the Savile Club, Brook Street, London W1. Champagne reception, dinner, raffle, live auction, musical entertainment and dancing until 1am, all in support of several Catholic charities. Details and booking information will be published during the summer.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend in support of CAFOD.

Lent Online Retreat

For this Lent 2023, in line with 2021 and 2022 initiatives, Farm Street Roman Catholic Church in partnership with Grosvenor Chapel, would like to invite each of us you to a journey of prayer and sharing around the theme Enlarging the Space of our Tent. We will focus on Justice and Peace, covering the themes of homelessness, racial justice, care of creation, migrants and peace, in the light of the Scriptures, following the Catholic diocese of Westminster Sharing Faith resource booklet, prepared by the Justice and Peace commission chaired by Fr Dominic Robinson, Farm Street's parish priest. This ecumenical Lent Group will take place on Zoom each Wednesday at 8PM from 1st March 2023 until 29th March. You can get the link by registering with Farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

The Universe Catholic Weekly Advert

Farm Street Church does not stock newspapers, and so we will occasionally publish adverts to support of the British Catholic press.

"The Universe Catholic Weekly newspaper is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order your Digital 2 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk"

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.



Second Sunday of Lent 5th March 2023

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

Michael Goode, Sacristan
Email: farmstreetsacristan@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 Thursday: 12 noon to 1pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT)

Friday: 12.30pm

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

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I see;
hide not your face from me.

RESPONSE

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

ACCLAMATION

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'.

COMMUNION

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



HOW DO YOU FILL UP YOUR DAY?

Towards the end of my Jesuit training I did a course in the history of spirituality with the distinguished American Jesuit historian John O'Malley. He suggested that one way of getting to the essence of any particular spirituality was to ask "How do you fill up your day?"

For St. Benedict the answer was the regular daily round of monastic prayer and the enclosed life of the monastery. St Francis de Sales put forward a way in which people could live the devote life while carrying on their ordinary lives. St. Ignatius approach to answering this question is by discerning God's will through the prayer and reflection involved in the Spiritual Exercises. This discernment helps us to see where God is leading. The key is finding that way which leads to the greater glory of God. The things we are given are means to that end and Ignatius says we should be indifferent to them: "we should not prefer health to sickness, riches to poverty, honour to dishonour, a long life to a short life. The same holds for all other things. Our one desire and choice should be what is more conducive to the end for which we are created". The early Jesuits originally thought the answer for them was to go and work in the Holy Land but circumstances taught them they need to make a different choice. That choice was to make themselves available to the Pope where ever the need was greatest. For Ignatius it meant spending the rest of his life writing letters and running the religious order which he and his companions had founded. Not, I am sure, what he expected when he started out.

The Gospel this Sunday is the story of the Transfiguration. The three disciples experience Christ's glory and hear his conversation with Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. Peter is overwhelmed, he wants to stay on the mountain and build tents for them. However, this is not the meaning of the experience. It is to prepare them to follow Jesus to Calvary and the Resurrection. They discover they will be called to spend their days following Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel to all nations.

It is very important for the Church that there are people who do stay on the mountain, people who spend their days living a contemplative monastic life. It is important for all of us to have their example and for them to pray and worship God on behalf of the Church. Indeed we all need prayer and contemplation in our own lives. However, for most of us the answer to "How do we fill up our

day?" will involve active engagement with the world. Like the disciples, and like Ignatius and his companions, we need to discern our way of living out the Gospel. This Lent gives us a chance to take stock, to see if we really do have the freedom we need to use the gifts we have been given for the greater glory of God in our world. We can notice where we are unduly attached to status, or possessions, or achievement. We can also ask for God's light to show us how we should spend our days in his service.

Fr Chris Pedley SJ
From the archives. First published on the 16th March 2014.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Second Sunday of Lent
Mon: Lent feria
Tue: Lent feria; Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
Wed: Lent feria; St John of God, Religious
Thu: Lent feria; St Frances of Rome, Religious
Fri: Lent feria (*Friday abstinence*)
Sat: Lent feria
Sun: Third Sunday of Lent

Daily Readings

Sun: Genesis 12:1-4; II Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9
Mon: Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tue: Isaiah 1:10-20; 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 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-42

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Marie Carroll Copestake, Charles Curran, Maggie Danby, Lady Antonia Fraser, Erin Lillis, Laura Marani, Robert McCormack, Helen Murphy, Millon Nigussie, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, George Tabor, Nick Walker, & Francis Walsh *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. Jamie Burnett
Requiescant in pace

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).

Collection

The Ash Wednesday brought in £2,200, including Gift Aid. This will go to Jesuit Missions for their Turkish earthquake appeal. Last week's Sunday collection brought in £1,718.84

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	934	Dear Lord and Father
Offertory	600	All that I am
Communion	199	Again we keep this solemn fast
Recessional	872	My God accept my heart this day

11am Solemn Latin Mass Music

Mass	Missa quarti toni	Victoria
Motets	Versa est in luctum	Lobo
	Peccanem me quotidie	Morales

Novena to St Francis Xavier

The Novena of Grace to St Francis Xavier will be said at every Mass at Farm Street Church from the 4th to 12th March. A visiting Jesuit will preach Monday to Saturday at the 6pm Mass and Sundays at 5.30pm Mass. All are invited to participate in this novena.
Sancte Franciscus Xaverius. Ora pro nobis

Coffee Morning

Newcomers to Farm Street are warmly invited to a Coffee Morning (homemade cakes included) on Saturday, 25th March from 10am until midday at 114 Mount Street. It is very informal, simply a way to meet a few parishioners and perhaps to find out a bit more about the parish. There is no need to book, just come and stay for as little or as long as you like

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 for the Org family intentions.

'Meditations' by Ewa Brachel

We are very pleased to announce that we will be displaying 'Meditation' by renowned artist Ewa Brachel in the Ground Floor Gallery at 114 Mount Street. This exhibition will run from Tuesday 28th February to Saturday 1st April. All are invited to view this exhibition.

For more information about the artist, please visit www.ewabrachel.com



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.

Why Believe? Defending and Explaining the Faith

Saturday 18th March

10am - 4pm

In-person

In this course we take a hard look at some of the most difficult questions that are asked of the Christian faith, so as to think about it more clearly, explain it more persuasively and defend it more effectively. For example, there seem to be some bad reasons to believe in God, but are there any really good reasons? And even if there are some good reasons to support belief in God, aren't there also lots of reasons not to believe? What about the thought that belief in God is irrelevant to the most important things in our lives, anyway? Can't people be 'good without God'? Why bother trying to resolve questions that lie beyond the limits of our understanding?

In this one-day course we take a look at problematic questions or objections to Christian belief, and see what kinds of response might usefully be put forward in response. We will consider a range of writings from some vocal opponents of Christian belief, as well as responses from Christian thinkers who have engaged thoughtfully with these perspectives. The aim is not to memorise a series of handy arguments that could be pulled out in an argument with those outside the faith, but to come to a clearer, deeper, more honest and convincing account of our own beliefs.