

# NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET

## The Heavens Proclaim: Astronomy and the Vatican

Sunday 12 February 2023, 4-5pm, St Mary's Church, 4 Holly Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 6QU

The roots of the Vatican Observatory go back to the Gregorian Reform of the Calendar in 1582, and it has been part of an extensive history of Church support for astronomy — Galileo to the contrary! As scientists supported by the Church, its modern mission is just to do good science. In the joy and beauty of what we discover, we reveal the presence of God in the things He has made; and in the process, show there is no inherent conflict between science and religion. We'll look into the history of this activity, including what's being done at the Vatican Observatory today.

Br Guy Consolmagno SJ is the Director of Specola Vaticana (the Vatican Observatory). He is an American research astronomer, physicist and President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation, the recipient of numerous awards and an author among other achievements.

It is with great pleasure that we are delighted to announce that Br Guy Consolmagno SJ will deliver his talk in person. Come and join us for what promises to be a fascinating insight into Astronomy, beauty and faith from a leading scientist.

If you are planning on attending in person please email the Parish Administrator at [hampstead@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hampstead@rcdow.org.uk) to book your place. You are welcome to livestream the lecture by visiting <https://www.churchservices.tv/hampstead/>

## CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS MARCH 2023

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

We will discover 17<sup>th</sup> century charity schools, 19<sup>th</sup> century Cardinals, and a Medieval mill! The Walk will finish in the Victoria Tower Gardens, alongside Parliament. This History Walk is being repeated FOUR times so as to offer different opportunities for people to attend

**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 Meet 6pm (after 5.30pm Mass)** steps of Westminster Cathedral

**Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> Meet 3pm** steps of Westminster Cathedral

**Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> Meet 3pm**, steps of Westminster cathedral

**Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.catholichistorywalks.org)

## Job opportunity: Fixed-term Collection Management Assistant (Heythrop Library)

17.5 hours per week, for 12 month.

Salary: 23,100 (pro rata)

Application deadline: Tuesday 28th February 2023, by 2pm (GMT)

Interviews: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

For how to apply, as well as the job and person

specifications, please see

<https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/news/fixed-term-collection-management-assistant>

## Piano Duet Recital "Quo Vadis: Where are you going?"

In aid of 'The Farm Street Church Conference of the SVP soup run' and the 'Central London Catholic Churches, Farm Street Homeless Service'

Join us on Thursday, 2 March 2023, 7.15pm at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1K 3AH for a Piano Duet Recital "Quo Vadis: Where are you going?", with Imma Setiadi and Nigel Clayton (piano four-hands) and a guest narrator.

The inspiration behind the theme of this concert is 'walking'. Yes, our day-to-day walk in the street, to our workplace, to the stations, the hustle bustle of our daily life which often leaves us little time for reflection. What happens if we take the day-to-day noise away and then go for a walk? What will we see and hear? Do we know where we are going?

Imma and Nigel will take you on a musical journey through piano duet music by Bernstein, Poulenc, Schubert, Fauré, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Leroy Anderson, Dvorak and Brahms. This will be interspersed with specially written narration, pictures, and soundscapes, to bring alive both an exterior and interior walk.

We are grateful to the support of Fr Dominic Robinson and Farm Street Church for hosting the concert in this magnificent Church.

Entry by donation at the door, proceed will go towards supporting the works of 'The Farm Street Church Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul soup run', 'Central London Catholic Churches, Farm Street Homeless Service', and the development of 'Musical Rainbow Project'. Refreshment to follow after the concert. For further details or enquiries, contact the Parish Office at [farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk) or [musicalrainbowproject@gmail.com](mailto:musicalrainbowproject@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com) or call us on 0800 448 0704

**Catholic Listeners are here to listen.**

## 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](mailto: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.



## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 12<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)

Patricia Morgan, Finance Officer

Email: [farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk)

David Graham, Director of Music

Email: [farmstreetmusic@gmail.com](mailto:farmstreetmusic@gmail.com)

Leninha Assis, Catechist

Email: [farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)

Michael Goode, Sacristan

Email: [farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsacristan@rcdow.org.uk)

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada,

Email: [farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk)

### SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin,

Email: [farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

## Parish Office

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH

TELEPHONE: 020 7529 4829

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

WEBSITE: [www.farmstreet.org.uk](http://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

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide, for the sake of your name.

### RESPONSE

They are happy who follow God's law!

### ACCLAMATION

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

### COMMUNION

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.



## LET MY CRY COME UNTO THEE

All that remains of the original Temple in Jerusalem is a part of the western wall known as the “Wailing Wall”. Here Jews have come for centuries to pray as they stand before the hallowed stones. A rabbi who had prayed there every single day of his life for fifty years was being interviewed by a journalist. “Rabbi, what do you pray for every day?” “I pray for peace!” “Well, what does it feel like praying in such a historic place?” “What does it feel like? It feels like I’m talking to a wall!”

Do our prayers really make a difference? I’ve been looking through the prayer request book which we keep in the Calvary Chapel. On its blank pages people can write down the prayers they wish to offer to God or to share with others. It’s very humbling – and inspiring – to see some of the things which were on people’s minds during the year: prayers for health are frequent, as are prayers for help at work and for blessings at home. Some prayers are addressed to Jesus, “Help me Lord Jesus to be a good person”, and others invite us to pray along side the petitioner: “Please remember in your prayers my son who needs so much support just now.” Some of the requests are written in broken English or in a foreign language. There are many prayers for peace. These came abundantly during the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Do our prayers make a difference – or are we talking to a wall?

The Bible assures us that God is involved fully in our lives. That so far from “watching us from a distance”, he is truly a part of us and of our lives and we are a part of His life too. Nothing so distinguishes our Christian and “incarnational” faith as this: that God loves us personally and individually, that

He has saved us in Christ, and that together in co-operation with God we work out our lives and our salvation. Our prayer is not a sudden interruption into the silence of a distant relationship, but part of that relationship day by day. God is not “listening” to our prayer – He is *in* the prayer, He *is* the prayer! Of course, we speak of our “cry” coming to Him and we ask Him to “graciously hear us”, but the prayer which we make is already a part of our life with God and cannot just be an added feature. As Christians we pray “in the name of Jesus”. This means we can pray as He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane: “Let this cup pass!

Nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done”. The will of God is his loving design for us, not some ineluctable fate. We are in a relationship of absolute trust. Moreover, when we pray, *we* must be a part of the prayer too. That is, we should never pray for something we are not prepared to help bring about. If I pray for peace I must work for peace. If I pray for a loved one who is sick I must be there for that person. If I pray for the spread of the Gospel I must be the Gospel for others. In some sense every prayer is already being answered if we allow ourselves to become part of the answer.

Can God change his mind or alter his plans? Our prayer of petition is not about that. God knows absolutely what is best for each of us and our “prayer requests” are part

of a dialogue in faith which itself is part of his design for us from all eternity. It is here that God’s freedom and our freedom meet. Our relationship can never be that of equals, but it is He who invites us into this “partnership”. Together we face every trial, together we share every joy.

**Fr William Pearsall SJ**  
*From the archives. First published on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011.*

### Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Marie Carroll Copestake, Charles Curran, Christopher, Maggie Danby, Lady Antonia Fraser, Katerina, Erin Lillis, Laura Marani, Robert McCormack, Millon Nigussie, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Richard, Leopold, 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).

### Liturgical Calendar

**Sun:** Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Mon:** Feria  
**Tue:** SS Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe  
**Wed:** St Claude La Colombière SJ, Priest  
**Thu:** Feria  
**Fri:** Feria; Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (*Friday abstinence*)  
**Sat:** Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday  
**Sun:** Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Daily Readings

**Sun:** Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21; I Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37  
**Mon:** Genesis 4:1-25; Mark 8:11-13  
**Tue:** Acts 13:46-49; Luke 10:1-9  
**Wed:** Genesis 8:6-22; Mark 8:22-26  
**Thu:** Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33  
**Fri:** Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34-9:1  
**Sat:** Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13  
**Sun:** Leviticus 19:1-18; I Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

### 9.30am Mass Hymns

<b>Entrance</b>	466	All people that on earth do dwell
<b>Offertory</b>	804	The King of love my shepherd is
<b>Communion</b>	794	God is love, his the care
<b>Recessional</b>	880	Tell out my soul

### 11am Solemn Latin Mass Music

<b>Prelude</b>	Praeludium in D minor	Scheidman
<b>Mass</b>	Missa secunda	Hassler
<b>Motets</b>	Exaltabo Te	Lassus
	Ave verum corpus	Lassus
<b>Postlude</b>	Praeludium in E minor	Bruhns

### 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 Paul Digan’s intention.**

### Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year observed on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Mass with imposition of ashes will be celebrated at the usual times of 8am, 1.05pm, and 6pm. Organ music will accompany the 1.05pm Mass and the Farm Street Choir will accompany the 6pm Mass. Lent is a solemn period in the Church’s calendar and a good start will help all of us as we observe this penitential season. Due to its penitential significance, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. All Catholics are bound to abstain from meat and Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. Further details about fasting and abstinence can be found at [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Penance/Abstinence.pdf](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Penance/Abstinence.pdf)

### FARM STREET PARISH FILM CLUB PREVIEW

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

**Next showing:** Arrupe Hall 6.30pm for 7.00pm on Thursday 23 February 2023

**Cost:** free - with drinks and refreshments (donations welcome)

**Presenting:** ‘Salvador’ (123 minutes)  
Booking invited (but not necessary) at [dthurst52@gmail.com](mailto:dthurst52@gmail.com)

### Introduction

To complete the theme around the troubles during the 1980s in El Salvador, this month the Film Club will show the 1986 Oscar-nominated war drama, ‘Salvador’, co-written and directed by Hollywood legend, Oliver Stone. The film tells the story of an American journalist, played by the ever-watchable James Woods (nominated for Best Actor), covering the civil war in the country who becomes entangled with both the FMLN and the right-wing military dictatorship while trying to rescue his girlfriend and her children. The film is sympathetic toward the left-wing revolutionaries and strongly critical of the US-supported military dictatorship, focusing on the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the murder of four American nuns by government death squads. After some pretty heavy films shown at the Film Club in recent months, we promise to lighten the tone next month leading up to Easter!



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](mailto:ffiore@jesuit.org.uk).

### On the Mystery (and Reality) of the Church 1-day course

Saturday, 18 February 2023

10:00am - 4:00pm

London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street

Course overview

What is the Church, exactly? It has certainly been talked about in lots of different ways: as both the ‘body’ of Christ and the ‘bride of Christ’; as a ‘perfect society’ and as the ‘pilgrim people of God’. And people have very different encounters with church: vibrant, life-restoring encounters; dreary, mundane encounters; sometimes even terrifying, destructive encounters. Each week, millions of Christians profess their belief in ‘one, holy, catholic and apostolic church’ - but what does it mean to say that the church is ‘holy’, when is it sinful, or ‘one’ when it is divided and at odds with itself?

This course introduces ‘ecclesiology’ – the theology of Church – in view of these, and other questions. We ask what Church is, what it should be, and what it has to do with the other essential elements of Christian belief. Participants will explore some of the most influential figures that have shaped recent ecclesiology, read some key theological texts, and reflect on how to connect these ideas with their own experience of, and encounters with the Church.

### Why Believe? Defending and Explaining the Faith

Tuesday, 28 February 2023 to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Online - Zoom

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 each week of the course we take a look at one problematic question or an objection to Christian belief, and see what kinds of response might usefully be put forward in response.