

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Third Sunday in Lent 7th March 2021

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Chris Pedley SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Damian Howard SJ; Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Fr Adrian Porter SJ; Fr Laco Sulik SJ

PARISH STAFF

George McCombe, Parish Secretary
Email: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 07561 611 248

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, farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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, start 7th March)

The dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect until further notice. 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

By appointment

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

By appointment. Dates are subject to lockdown developments.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE

All events are suspended until further notice. For more information, contact Anne Paolino at apaolino@jesuit.org.uk

Sunday Homilies & Articles Weekly newsletter articles are uploaded to our website on a weekly basis. They can be viewed at <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/weekly-articles>. Our website also contains an archive of previous Sunday homilies.

Social Media

Farm Street Church has a strong presence on social media and we regularly update our Twitter account and Facebook page with information relating to the parish and the wider Catholic community.

THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

Regular Farm Street parishioners will have noticed that most, if not all, Jesuits get moved from one place to another, from one assignment to another, quite frequently. I have found that one of the advantages of this is that I don't accumulate too much stuff, books in particular, since each move is accompanied by an enthusiastic clear out. Only those books I really need or which have meant a lot to me over the years stay with me.

One book have travelled with me to my various postings for about 25 years. I find myself returning to it again and again. It's called "Following Christ in a Consumer Society" and it's by an American Jesuit who taught in St Louis University for many years, John Kavanaugh.

I find he analyses the way we live now helpfully and convincingly. There is so much in our culture which tells us that the happiness and fulfilment we long for will be found by having this or that, by dressing like him or her or by going here or there to this or that exotic place on holiday, in other words. How different this is from the message of Jesus that our fulfilment lies not in satisfying our needs but in what we give to others, in the quality of our relationships with one another, especially with those who have least, and with God.

A similar contrast between the way we live now and the way Jesus teaches is given by Henri Nouwen. He contrasts the "ascending way" which the world tells us to adopt – climbing up the ladder of promotion, having status and being well thought of by the high and mighty – with the "descending way" which Jesus showed us when at the Last Supper as he removed his outer garment, tied a towel around his waist and did the work of the servant, washing the feet his disciples.

When I worked in education, people used to complain that after their confirmation at the age of about 14, young people were rarely seen in church, and that there must be something very wrong with the quality or religious education and of Catholic life in schools. In my experience, schools went to great lengths to teach and to encourage students to practise the Catholic faith well. The problem rather, as both Kavanaugh and Nouwen in their different ways point out, is the powerful influence which the surrounding culture has on young people which makes it very hard for them, as it does for us, to hear and then live the message of the Gospel.

I was put in mind of this by the second reading of today's mass, the third Sunday of Lent. St Paul is writing to the Christian community in Corinth and contrast the "descending way" of Christ, of suffering and death which leads to life, which we as his disciples are invited to follow, and the way of the world. This way of Christ is "a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles" but "to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God".

Lent is, of course, a time of conversion when we are all invited to live the way of Christ with greater integrity. What resources do we have to live our faith in Christ in so counter-cultural a way? It makes me think how much I need to place the Eucharist in the centre of my life: to hear the Word of God, to let it inspire and challenge me; to encounter Christ in communion, when he is as near to me as I am to myself; and to have the support of all those around me who similarly have heard the call to follow Christ and to live his way of service and love in the world today.

This is one reason why I for one have found the past year difficult, when for much of the time we have not been able to gather together as a worshipping community, and look forward to that time, hopefully soon, when we'll all be able to gather again in person to celebrate the presence of Christ amongst us and to encourage each other along the way.

Fr Michael Holman SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun: Third Sunday in Lent
Mon: Lent feria; St John of God, Religious
Tue: Lent feria; St Frances of Rome, Religious
Wed: St John Ogilvie SJ, Priest & Martyr
Thu: Lent feria
Fri: Lent feria
Sat: Lent feria
Sun: Fourth Sunday in Lent (*Laetare Sunday*)

Daily Bible Readings

Sun: Exodus 20:1-17; I Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25
Mon: II Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30
Tue: Daniel 3:25,34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
Wed: Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thu: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Fri: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
Sat: Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14
Sun: II Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

Resumption of Public Worship

Following a consultation among the Parish Pastoral Council, the decision has been taken to reopen the church for public Masses and confessions from the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 20th February. We are assured that, following COVID protocol, this is a safe move, and many will appreciate the opportunity to come to Mass and confession in the church as contributing to overall well-being at this difficult time. Our ordinary Mass schedule will resume, and this can be viewed on page 1 of this newsletter. The obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, and we would discourage those who are elderly or vulnerable from travelling to the church, especially if this involves the use of public transport.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at Farm Street Church every Friday at 12 noon during the season of Lent. This can be attended either in person or via the livestream page on our website.

Scripture Speaks

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:21-23

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

We would like to draw your attention to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which is currently requesting donations. The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal is a diocesan fund which supports work in areas relating to poverty and homelessness; marriage and family life; youth and evangelization; and education services. A tremendous amount of good work is achieved by projects funded by the Lenten Appeal, which in turn is supported by the generosity of donors. One example of this good work has been the meals provided to the homeless over the past year by Central London Catholic Churches which has, in part, been funded by a very generous grant from the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Poverty and inequality have risen significantly in London as a result of the pandemic, and this year the Lenten Appeal will focus particularly on families who are struggling to place food on the table.

We would encourage you to visit the following link (<https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal/>) to find out more about the Lenten Appeal and, if you are able to do so, to consider donating to this important fund.

Saints and Demons

You are invited to join us for a Zoom conversation and studio tour with sculptor Timothy Schmalz on Friday 19th March at 7.30pm. Timothy is the Canadian sculptor renowned for his creation of the 'The Homeless Jesus' statue. He invites you to visit his studio to show and discuss some of his recent work since the creation of the Homeless Jesus and the Angels Unawares installed in St. Peter's Square. While still installing The Homeless Jesus in cities around the world, Timothy continues to bring attention to social issues with a series of sculptures on the theme of Human Trafficking while also completing an epic sculpture collection of 100 sculptures to celebrate Dante's 700 anniversary. If you would like to attend this talk titled 'Saints and Demons', please contact the parish secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk.

Encounters with Jesus in Lent

Farm Street Church and The Grosvenor Chapel are running a joint Lent reflection course titled 'Encounters with Jesus'. This is being held via Zoom at 8pm on six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on the 24th of February and concluding on the 31st March. The course will reflect on the encounters with Jesus experienced by people in the Gospels and will use the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola as a guide.

Each session will consist of 1.) A Brief Introduction, 2.) A Scriptural Reading, 3.) A 20-minute Guided Meditation on the Reading, 4.) Break out rooms to reflect on the Guided Meditation (20 minutes) with Facilitator in each Group 5.) Return to plenary and Final Prayers.

This Wednesday is Week 3, which will focus on the miracle of Jesus walking on the water, as recorded in Matthew 14:22-33. The theme for the remaining weeks is:

Week 4: Bartimaeus Mk 10:46-52

Week 5: This man was Son of God Mk 15: 33-39

Week 6: Mary at the tomb Jn 20: 11-18

If you would like to participate in this course, please contact the Parish Secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk for the Zoom details. The course can be joined any stage, so no need to worry if you would like to join after missing several weeks.

Novena of Grace

We will be praying the Novena of Grace to St Francis Xavier at every Mass from Thursday 4th March to Friday 12th March. This year we have invited nine people from around the world to record a short novena video, addressing the question ‘What does it mean to be a missionary Church today?’ The videos will be posted by 12 noon daily on our website, YouTube page, and social media platforms. The text for the novena prayer is printed below:

O most kind and loving saint, in union with you I adore the Most Divine Majesty. The memory of the favours with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fills me with joy; and I unite with you in offering to Him my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. I implore of you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession, the all-important blessing of living and dying in a state of grace. I also ask you to obtain the favour I ask in this Novena (here ask the favour you wish to obtain), but if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God or the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both. Amen

O God who was pleased to gather to your Church the peoples of the East by the preaching and miracles of St Francis Xavier, mercifully grant that we, who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

The nine scheduled speakers are:

Mar 4 Fr Laco Sulik (Mount Street Community, London)

Mar 5 Fr Charles Gagan SJ (Mission Dolores Academy, San Francisco, USA)

Mar 6 Gloria Ferenando (Soul Food, London)

Mar 7 Fr Innocent Kamanzi SJ (Jesuit Centre of Spirituality, Cyangugu, Rwanda)

Mar 8 Sarah Lloyd (Family of Blessed John Sullivan SJ, London)

Mar 9 Fr Asif John (Diocese of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Pakistan)

Mar 10 Fr Joseph Mathew SJ (St Aloysius, Glasgow)

Mar 11 Cristina Luzon-Perez (Evangelist Associate, St Patrick’s Soho Square, London)

Mar 12 Fr Dominic Robinson SJ (Farm Street Church, London)

The Video Gallery page of our website can be viewed here: <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/video-gallery>

Forty Martyrs Exhibition

An online exhibition on the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, put together by the British Province of the Society of Jesus Archives, in collaboration with the Curator of the Stonyhurst Collection and others, has been created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their canonisation. Drawing on the Province’s extensive collection of papers and relics, it tells the remarkable story of the martyrs with short talks, text, and pictures. The result is a fascinating and beautifully presented exhibition, which is both educational and inspiring. The exhibition can be viewed at the following link <https://www.jesuitcollections.org.uk/>

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

During the first Covid 19 lockdown in the Spring 2020, Companions of the Order of Malta and Westminster City Council worked in partnership to start a donation hub for the homeless. The aim was to streamline the donations available and produce a circular network where the necessary supplies were available to support vulnerable individuals being housed in the hotels and hostels and the street population.

35,000 items were sorted and packed at St Joseph’s Hall, Brompton Oratory from April to July and then delivered to the homeless. The donation hub opened again in November 2020, and we open to receive donations again.

Donation Hub location:

St Joseph’s Hall, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR. .

Opening times for receiving donations:

Wednesday 2 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 6.30 – 8pm (by arrangement)

Saturday 10.30am – 2pm.

Please only deliver donations at these times.

Types of Donations:

Toiletries – only unopened items please
Men and women’s clothes (no children’s clothes please)

Entertainment items e.g. books – fact or fiction/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items
(please ensure the books are appropriate eg No recipe books)

Thank you very much for any support you can give.

Contact: Kate MacKenzie

at London.companionsofmalta@gmail.com if you have any queries.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of March, Pope Francis encourages us to pray an intention for evangelization, particularly with regards to the sacrament of reconciliation. We pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

A Prayer if Anxious

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St Francis De Sales

Prayer to St Corona

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic. Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those gone astray and, above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St Corona, who gave her life for the love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.

St Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.

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

Scripture Speaks

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Romans 8:18

Act of Perfect Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, to avoid whatever leads me to sin, and to confess my sins when possible.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, I believe you are present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You and draw closer to You. Since I cannot receive Your body and blood sacramentally at this time, come to me spiritually. Help me to embrace You more deeply and unite myself more wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from Your love. Amen

Face Covering Update

'Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass [or for private prayer] as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet.' (Statement issued by the Bishops' Conference). Further information can be found on the relevant section of the Government's website.

Supporting the Parish

We are grateful to everyone who has continued to financially support the church during the months of disruption caused by the pandemic. We are mindful that many people are currently struggling financially and may not be able to donate as they once did. If you can donate to the work of the parish, we would ask that you consider doing so in a way that avoids physical cash. This is for the safety of our staff, who need to physically count any money that is donated. Please consider donating via our website, setting up a standing order, or donating via the cashless terminals in the church. We are also implementing a new donating system called Givt, which will allow contactless donations via mobile phones. If you would like to donate via standing order, please contact the parish Finance Officer at farmstreetfin@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you again for your support.