

**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 – Confessions will be heard in the church from 10am to 4pm
 - 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, contact Leninha Assis.

Monthly Vigil Outside Home Office

Next vigil December 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.ne

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.

NEWSLETTER

JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FARM STREET



Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)
11th 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

Michael Goode, Sacristan

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSE

Come, Lord, and save us.

ACCLAMATION

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

COMMUNION

Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



HOMECOMING

Joy is the best perseverance in homecoming as we continue our spiritual journey, we are urged and encouraged to seek joy through all of our walking. It may be going just fine, in which case, stay calm and carry on. It may also be for some of us a point of crisis. Instead of feeling our own fragility, let us take the point of crisis as a new opportunity to recommit ourselves to our spiritual path of growth and hold on to expecting the Lord's salvation.

When we look at the readings to mark the third Advent Sunday, they speak of joy in wilderness (cf. Is 35:1). The prophet speaks to those captured in Babylon when people lost all hope. It really takes courage to cross the desert that stands in between Babylon and Jerusalem to reach back the Holy City after being humiliated just like it takes courage to walk through the Advent season to celebrate the feast of the Incarnation in a meaningful way. The terrible experience of feeling trapped and unable to move with the prospect of going through all sorts of obstacles and hindrance may prevent some from even starting up the journey. It may slow others down after they have set out on their journey. It may also further stop others alongside their journey and never being able to reach their own liberation. Joy should fuel courage to take up the path and together they should be enough to keep us on the journey to homecoming.

The Psalm today is a fitting song to cry out in vulnerable times "Come Lord and save us" because you Lord always are the one who preserves our faith, feeds us and makes us to see beyond our individual circumstances. The Lord embodies justice in face of all injustice we may suffer.

And if joy and courage is not enough and we run out, then there is the patience through which we cultivate perseverance and preserve hopeful homecoming. Just as St Paul appeals "Be patient until the Lord's coming." (James 5:7)

Because we have progressed and used some of our motivation and strength on this spiritual journey, we no longer have the same amount of energy and may feel strained. It is important then to follow Ignatius' advice "to mind where I am going and the purpose." (SpEx 206).

Even the Gospel of Matthew presents us with and obstacle, a doubt: Is Jesus really the Messiah or not? This very question seems to occupy John the Baptist in the face of what he hears about Christ. He too – like each of us – had formed his own idea of who the Christ should have been and how the Messiah should come to liberate His people.

But seeing what he sees, he feels the story is different from what he previously expected: he expected a "purifier", a messiah who would distribute rewards

and above all punishments to sinners. Instead, he receives a shocking answer from Jesus to look at what is going on: those who are wounded by life, find full renewal of life.

We are not to be scandalized by the way God operates. The Messiah, God-with-us, is also God-for-us. The novelty of the Gospel lies in this: God who becomes incarnate, at the same time is God willing to save everyone. Do we have the courage to hear the Good News?

Even if all of this weren't credible enough, Jesus goes on to speak more profoundly that the Kingdom of heaven is the condition in which everyone who belongs is greater than John the Baptist himself, the greatest prophet amongst all.

An unexpected Messiah and almost an incredible message: God humbles Himself to save everyone. That is God's Homecoming.

What do I need most in these days?
Joy? Courage? Patience? Perseverance? And how do I get it?
What Messiah am I expecting?
What do I observe that is going on in my life and on my Advent journey and in my community?

Fr Ladislav Sulik SJ

Liturgical Calendar

- Sun:** Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- Mon:** Advent feria; Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Tue:** St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
- Wed:** St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
- Thu:** Advent feria
- Fri:** Advent feria (*Friday abstinence*)
- Sat:** Advent feria
- Sun:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

Daily Readings

- Sun:** Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- Mon:** Numbers 24:2-17; Matthew 21:23-27
- Tue:** Zephaniah 3:1-13; Matthew 21:28-32
- Wed:** Isaiah 45:6-25; Luke 7:19-23
- Thu:** Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30
- Fri:** Isaiah 56:1-8; John 5:33-36
- Sat:** Genesis 49:2-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Sun:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

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).

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.

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	607	Let all mortal flesh
Offertory	887	God, whose almighty word
Communion	643	Gifts of bread and wine
Recessional	92	Hark! A herald voice is calling

11am Music List

- Mass** Miss in Adventus *M Haydn*
- Motets** Prope est Dominus *M Haydn*
Veni Domine et noli tardare *Mendelssohn*
- Post-communion hymn** 94 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptists' Cry*
- Organ** Overture (St Paul) *Mendelssohn*

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

Welcome to Our New Sacristan

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Michael Goode as the new sacristan at Farm Street Church. Michael has now officially started work in the parish and you will see him here throughout the week. Please do introduce yourselves to him and be sure to give him a warm welcome.

Central London Catholic Churches Message

CLCC would like to thank CAAPA (Catholic Association Of Performing Artists) whose actors and writers staged a wonderful evening of original short Playlets on Friday 02nd December. The evening was a successful fundraiser for the work with the homeless being undertaken at Farm Street Church.



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

From the era of the Reformation down to the present day, the relationship between Catholics and the British monarchy has been long and fraught. On the threshold of a new era for the monarchy, with the accession of King Charles III, Catholics and non-Catholics alike are reappraising the role which the monarchy plays in the life of the nation.

Join us for an evening of lively discussion about the past present and future of the relationship between the monarchy and Catholics in Britain, drawing on voices from the spheres of politics, journalism and history.

Register on www.londonjesuitcentre.org

London Jesuit Centre Ideas Day

Monday 9th January, 2023

The London Jesuit Centre invites all our friends to come along to our Ideas Day.

The Centre is new, and is looking to better meet the needs of the Church and society in general. As we enter the New Year we are considering our future plans and how best to reach out to people.

If you have any ideas about what is needed in the Church and the world, particularly in the areas of Spirituality, Theology and Environment and Social Justice, then please come along if you can to our Ideas Day. We will let you know what we have been doing in the past year or so and listen to you about what you think would be good to develop.

We begin with a free sandwich lunch at 1.30pm and sit down to share our ideas at 2pm. You may well add Farm St Church's 1.10pm Mass to your programme.

Although the event is free, we ask you to sign up so we know how many people to cater for.

Register on www.londonjesuitcentre.org