

Church of the Immaculate Conception - Farm Street



Third Sunday of Easter
18th April 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
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Sebastian Cichocki, Maintenance
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Steven Fachada, farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Debbie Martin, farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

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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)

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.

PEACE BE WITH YOU

St Luke was a master storyteller. Just think of his account of Zechariah's encounter with the angel in the Temple or of the annunciation to Mary in the first chapter of his Gospel. We will remember the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan as well. His story telling genius is on display after the Resurrection too: the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is a favourite for many.

The Gospel reading at mass this Sunday is one of the most vivid of all post Resurrection accounts. These two disciples have just told their companions in Jerusalem of how they had encountered the risen Jesus in the breaking of bread when Jesus himself came and stood amongst them. There are at least three points worth noting in this scene as Luke describes it.

The eminent scripture scholar Raymond Brown has written that the way Luke constructs his story may have had an apologetic purpose: it is his way of correcting some misunderstandings that had arisen. The risen Jesus he describes is not a ghost but he has a real body: "Touch me and see for yourselves: a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have". Moreover, this risen Jesus is no imposter but the same Jesus who was crucified: he shows them the wounds in his hands and feet.

A second point to note is the way in which the risen Jesus exercises what St Ignatius Loyola calls the "office of consoler". He greets his disciples and welcomes them: "Peace be with you". He is concerned about their doubts and wants to confirm their faith: "Why are you so agitated and why do these misgivings arise in your hearts?" The relationship he has with his disciples is warm and intimate: he eats with them as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Though risen from the dead and Lord, Jesus is their friend and companion.

We can also note how Jesus instructs his disciples, explaining that all that happened to him happened according to the scriptures: "everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the prophets and in the psalms, has to be fulfilled". Peter makes a similar point when he said to the people in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, "this was the way God carried out what he had foretold". This may surprise and even startle us. How could the cruel, brutal death of Jesus be part of God's plan?

Luke appears to be telling us that God's goodness is such that even the most distressing of events can be

brought to a good end. God can bring about something wonderful even out of evil just as, according to the first letter of St John in the second reading, the death of Jesus on the cross was made by God to have a purpose that brought us the greatest benefit of all. As John says, his death became the "sacrifice that takes our sins away".

How can this Gospel reading strengthen our discipleship of Jesus today? As I see it, Jesus wants to exercise his ministry of consolation with us so that we can be ambassadors of that consolation to others. He wants us to know that he is our friend and companion who says to you and me, "Peace be with you". He wants to strengthen our faith in the resurrection: he is no ghost, no spirit, but real flesh and blood. The hope this resurrection gives us can be the foundation of our lives. Finally, he wants to assure us that we have a God who in his goodness can bring about something wonderful even from the multiple tragedies that too many people have suffered this past year.

*Look with kindness on your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Fr Michael Holman, SJ

Liturgical Calendar

Sun:	Third Sunday of Easter
Mon:	St Alphege, Bishop & Martyr
Tue:	Easter feria
Wed:	Easter feria; St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor
Thu:	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus
Fri:	St George, Martyr, Patron of England
Sat:	Ss Erkenwald and Mellitus, Bishops
Sun:	Fourth Sunday of Easter

Daily Bible Readings

Sun:	Acts 3:13-19; I John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48
Mon:	Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
Tue:	Acts 7:51-8:1; John 6:30-35
Wed:	Acts 8:1-8; John 6:34-40
Thu:	Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51
Fri:	Apocalypse 12:10-12; Romans 5:1-5; John 15:18-21
Sat:	Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69
Sun:	Acts 4:8-12; I John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

In the month of April, Pope Francis encourages us to pray for the recognition and defence of fundamental human rights. We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships and authoritarian regimes. We also pray for democracies in crisis.

Fourth Annual Landings Lecture

The fourth annual Landings Lecture will take place on Friday 23rd April at 7pm. In previous years, the Landings Lectures have taken place at Farm Street Church, London. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the lecture will take place online via Zoom. The speaker this year is Dr Anna Rowlands, a lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Studies and deputy directory of the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University of Durham. The theme she will be addressing is titled, '**Rebuilding the Church for a Change of Era; Pope Francis' vision in 'Fratelli Tutti'**'. If you would like to attend this talk, please book a place via the Eventbrite booking page <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-2021-landings-lecture-tickets-145306185713>. We do ask for a donation to attend this lecture, which will go to support the important work of Landings.

Have you been away from the Church and seeking a way back to your faith?

Landings, the programme for returning Catholics, is run by regular Church goers and those who themselves have returned after doing the Landings programme. Through a series of storytelling, discussion topics and prayers returnees are able to have their voices heard through compassionate listening in a confidential space where trust and hospitality are integral.

We know that many have been away from the Church for a while and there is a great yearning to reconnect with their faith, especially after the past year of lockdown and the ensuing isolation.

If you, or anyone you know is considering reconnecting with their faith then do please take a Landings card and email

Fr. Dominic Robinson at landingsuk@gmail.com or Ruby Almeida at landingsouth@gmail.com

Scripture Speaks

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:14-14

David Low RIP

The funeral of David Low will take place on Friday 30th April at 1pm at the North Chapel at The City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park, E12 5DQ. Many of you will know David, who died on Wednesday 25th March. David was an active parishioner at Farm Street Church, and he will be especially remembered for his kind and generous demeanor, shown especially in his voluntary work for our homeless night shelter and as a receptionist on the front desk. He was also a faithful Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He will be sadly missed.

Up to thirty people are permitted to attend the funeral in person. There are spaces available, so if you would like to attend, please contact The City of London Crematorium. His funeral will also be livestreamed. The details for this are:

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>

Login / Order ID: 91060

Password: vgpdqtez

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

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

Help the Homeless Donation Hub

The Companions of the Order of Malta's Donation hub is looking for donations for the 600 - 800 homeless supported in the hotels.

Hub address: St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory, 5 Thurloe Place, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2RR.

Items required: Men's and women's clothes and shoes (not children's clothes please)

Toiletries – unopened please

Entertainment items e.g. books/crosswords/puzzles/art and craft items (No Recipe books please)

Please see the times for dropping off donations:

Tuesday 1.30 – 4pm and 6.30 – 7.30pm (by arrangement)

Wednesday 2 – 4pm

Saturday 10 – 11am

Please contact Kate MacKenzie on companions.london@orderofmalta.org.uk if you would like to deliver some donations. Please do not leave them at the church.

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

Invitation: London Citizens Assembly, Wednesday 28th April, 6pm - 7:30pm

The Mayor of London has a budget of over £17 billion. The upcoming Mayoral Election is an opportunity for us to hold the next mayor to account. The London Citizens Assembly has created a manifesto that will benefit our city, the result of listening and strategy workshops involving thousands of ordinary Londoners over the last two years. With our 240+ member organisations, we chose these priority areas:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Youth Safety
- Living Wage
- A Welcoming London for Migrants
- Just Transition: Green Jobs

In February, 500 Londoners on a Zoom meeting ratified our [London Citizens 2021 Manifesto](#).

On **Wednesday 28th April, 6pm - 7:30pm**, mayoral candidates Sadiq Khan and Shaun Bailey will be held to account by people like you, on a manifesto crafted by people like you. Our accountability assembly will have a ticketed, interactive online broadcast for our member organisations and invited guests.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic means London can no longer wait for change. Without your support, we cannot win. Will you join us on the 28th April?

If you would like to attend this event, please notify Fr Dominic via the parish secretary at farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk.

Scripture Speaks

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

I Corinthians 15:50-52

The Old Testament – A Guide for the Perplexed

A series of five talks will be given on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-8pm by Fr John Deehan. The syllabus is:

20th April – Managing our expectations

27th April – Why and how was the Old Testament written? The myths of Genesis 1-11

4th May – The challenge of living in the Promised Land. The Former Prophets.

11th May – Coming to terms with reality but not losing hope. The Great Prophets.

18th May – Exile and Restoration. The Writings.

The talks will be delivered via Zoom. To sign up, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-old-testament-a-guide-for-the-perplexed-fr-john-deehan-series-tickets-147585890371>

Learn From Me

A Support for Parish Catechists: Reflecting on the Lives of Saints and Blesseds of Catechesis

As part of the development of ongoing formation and support of catechists, monthly online 45-minute prayer times are being offered, 7.30pm-8.15pm, on the following dates:

Thursday 6th May – St George Preca

Monday 7th June – St Jose de Anchieta

Tuesday 6th July – St Clelia Barbieri

Registration is required beforehand to receive the Zoom link. Contact Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

For more information, contact Anna Dupelycz at annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk

Year of St Joseph

On Thursday 29th April at 7pm, Fr John Hemer MHM will be delivering an online talk on the subject of St Joseph, 'Who stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments' (*Patris Corde*). This is a particularly relevant subject as we are currently in the Year of St Joseph. The talk will be delivered via Zoom. To register, please e-mail catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Scripture Speaks

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:50-57

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.