

The Listening Event

We warmly invite you to a relaxed and informal presentation on Catholic Listeners, Landings, our Returning Catholics Programme, and the launch of our new Catholic Listeners website. This will be on the 18th October from 6.30pm to 8.30pm (following 6pm Mass at Farm Street Church). The location is the Arrupe Hall and Cana Lounge at 114 Mount Street. For more information and to book your participation, call 0800 448 0704 or e-mail Catholiclisteners@gmail.com. RSVP by 1st October.

The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball

This will take place at 6pm Saturday 18th November 2023 in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £125 each. For bookings and enquiries email GCNball@gmail.com or telephone 07795205117

Wanted: Barbers or Hairdressers

We are looking for several volunteers who have experience cutting men's hair who can provide this support at our weekly lunch service for homeless individuals on Saturdays and Wednesdays in the London Jesuit Centre. Our hours of opening are between 11:30 am and 2 pm and equipment will be provided. If you could help on a regular or even occasional basis, please contact centrallondoncatholicchurches@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to steward in the church on Sundays from 2 until 4, apart from the last Sunday of the month, which is covered. If you are interested in helping us out with this, please email Steven Fachada at farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk.

Becoming a Catholic

RCIA is aimed at anyone who has been considering becoming a Catholic. The programme based at Farm Street, Mayfair is conducted by experienced lay parishioners, priests and religious sisters. There are twelve sessions held twice a month beginning on 21st October and finishing on 23rd March. If you are interested in doing RCIA, please email rcia.farmstreet@gmail.com for an application form.

Jesuit Missions Christmas Cards

Informed by the Ignatian call to go where the need is greatest, they work in areas such as anti-human trafficking, educational access, and environmental sustainability in places like India, South Sudan and Ethiopia. By buying Jesuit Missions Christmas cards, you make their work possible. To place an order, go to: <https://www.charitycardshop.com/JM>.

Monthly Memorial Prayer Vigil for refugees and asylum-seekers

On the 3rd Monday of every month outside the Home Office SW1P 4DF from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Praying for:
*Those who died trying to reach the UK
*Victims of current wars
*Those in detention & who are homeless
*The UK to be a more welcoming nation
Sign up to receive email news & alerts of changes or cancellations at: homeofficevigil@gmail.com
The next vigil is on Monday 16th October.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Divine Mercy Retreat at Most Precious Blood and St Edmund Campion RC Church, 115 Hertford Road, Edmonton, London, N9 7EN on Saturday 21 October 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners is a confidential telephone helpline service. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, it has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. 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, the helpline is staffed by a professional team of volunteers who are trained to signpost callers to other services and agencies. Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. Operating three days a week from 4pm-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free on **0800 448 0704** For further information please email us at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com.
Catholic Listeners are here to listen.

Welcome

If this is your first time here, we would like to especially welcome you to Farm Street, our vibrant and engaging Catholic parish in the heart of London. We aim to welcome all who come to our church to share in our faith and fellowship. Please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy. You will always be most welcome here.
Fr. Dominic Robinson, SJ
Parish Priest



Jesuit Church of The Immaculate Conception
FARM STREET

Welcome to Farm Street Church, our vibrant and engaging Catholic Parish in the heart of London

www.farmstreet.org.uk



PARISH OFFICE

ADDRESS: 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH
TELEPHONE: 020 7529 4829
E-MAIL: farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest
Fr Nicholas King SJ; Fr Michael Holman SJ

REGULARLY ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr Michael Barnes SJ; Fr David Birchall SJ

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin & Joseph Kumar, Email: farmstreetsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday: 7.30am – 7.00pm

MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 8:00 | 13:05 | 18:00
Saturday: 8:00 | 18:00 (vigil)
Sunday: 8:00 | 09:30 (Family) | 11:00 (Solemn), 12:30 | 17:30 | 19:00 (Young Adult, 18-35)
Join us for a coffee after the 9:30 and 11:00 Mass.

All Masses can be viewed on our livestreaming page
<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday: 12:00-13:00

CONFESSIONS

Monday to Friday: 12:00 – 12:55
Saturday: 10:00 to 12:00; 17:45 – 17:55
Sunday: Fifteen minutes before every Mass
Also by appointment

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th October 2023

YEAR A TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

RESPONSE

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

ACCLAMATION

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.

COMMUNION

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.



WHERE WE ARE

It seems good to give something of an idea of where we are in the liturgical year. Over the next seven weeks, we shall continue our reading of Matthew's gospel, which we have been following since the 1st Sunday of Advent. Each Sunday there is an OT reading, theoretically chosen to fit the gospel (so it is good to make sure that you read them both in the week before, starting on the Monday of each week). As you do so, try to see why this reading, and its accompanying psalm, was chosen for this particular gospel. Then the second reading for this Sunday is our last reading of the Letter to the Philippians, which we have been following for some weeks. Then the following Sunday we shall start reading the oldest doc of the entire NT (1 Thessalonians, since you ask) for 5 weeks.

So when you are preparing come to Sunday mass, make sure that you read the gospel before starting your preparation for the OT reading, and ask how they fit each other. After that, for the second reading, we have to ask, "Where were we last week?" and see whether it is possible to fit the message to that of the other two readings (and sympathise with the celebrant/preacher, who has to do this each week!).

So what can we say about Sunday's gospel, the chilling parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14)?

The main character is a King/Emperor who throws a wedding feast for his son"; inevitably we think of Jesus; but we are also invited to observe the high privilege of the occasion. Which makes it rather odd that in the first place "he sent his slaves to call those who had been invited" instead of sitting back and waiting for them to turn up. Odder still, we hear the reaction of the invited guests, unimaginable in that culture: "and they did not want to come!"

Now it gets serious, and the King/Emperor transfers the mission to "other slaves" "Tell those who have been invited that I have made my breakfast ready, and the bulls and fatted calves have been slaughtered: all is ready: come to the wedding!". We are amazed that they have to be summoned to take up such a privileged invitation. Then, however, it gets worse, and we hear that horrifying response: "they did not care, and went away, one to his own farm, another to his supermarket". Not only that, but "they took hold of his slaves, and maltreated them and killed them"!

How, we ask, is this King/Emperor going to respond? It comes in two stages: first (and we have to say that this is somewhat radical) "he was angry and sent his armies and burnt their city"; and, second, we are reminded that "the wedding feast is ready" (does it occur to you that it is possibly a bit cold by now? The parable perhaps does not take itself very seriously). "Those who were invited were unworthy". So the

slaves are told to "go into the gateways of the roads and whoever you find, "summon them to the wedding feast". This has the remarkable result that "those slaves went out into the streets, and they gathered all they could find with the consequence that "the wedding-feast was full of diners". That is, you may say, in the language of football managers, a "result".

Now this odd story gets ever odder: "the King/Emperor went in to inspect the diners", so he is not precisely in there with them having fun. "And he saw a man who was not clothed with wedding-clothing". And he addressed him as "my friend". Only two other persons are so addressed in Matthew's gospel (namely the angry worker in the vineyard and Judas when he comes to arrest him in Gethsemane). That should make us pause for thought. Then we should notice the Emperor's question: "How did you come in here without having wedding-clothing?" (the problem seems to be that he did not have the right identity pass).

No reply is forthcoming; Matthew tells us that he was "silenced", or perhaps "muzzled". Then there is a very striking reaction: the King/Emperor said to the servants: "tie him up hand and foot and fling him into the Outer Darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth". We may feel that this is a bit strong. But you might like to notice the event that happens next in the gospel, when we see the Pharisees setting a trap, about taxes to Caesar. Does that help at all?

And then look at the first reading; what does this tell us?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Opposing Antisemitism

Amidst an alarming rise in antisemitic activity, across the world and in London, it is worth reflecting on the words contained within section four of *Nostra Aetate*, one of the documents produced by the Second Vatican Council:

'Remembering, then, its [the Church's] common heritage with the Jews and moved not by any political consideration, but solely by the religious motivation of Christian charity, it deplores all hatreds, persecutions, displays of antisemitism directed against the Jews at any time or from any source.'

These words are to be taken very seriously. As Christians, we are called to support and stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters, whether at home or abroad, and oppose any form of hatred directed against them. Let us pray that God would deliver people from the scourge of antisemitism.

Sunday Refreshments

Refreshments are normally served in the Arrupe Hall after the 9.30am, 11am and 5.30pm Sunday Masses (second & fourth Sunday only for 5.30pm)

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	315	Lead us heavenly Father
Offertory	601	Praise to the Lord
Communion	806	The Lord's my shepherd
Recessional	830	The Church's one foundation

11am Solemn Mass Music

Prelude	Allegro (Trio Sonata 1)	<i>JS Bach</i>
Mass	Mass in Bb	<i>Sussmayr</i>
Motets	Ecce quam bonum	<i>Rheinberger</i>
	Ave Maria	<i>Rossini</i>
Postlude	Fugue on the Magnificat <i>JS Bach</i>	

Liturgical Calendar

Sun:	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 25:6-10; Philippians 4:12-20; Matthew 22:1-14
Mon:	St Margaret Mary Alacoque Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
Tue:	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr Philippians 3:17-4:1; John 12:24-26
Wed:	St Luke, Evangelist II Timothy 4:10-17; Luke 10:1-9
Thu:	Feria; Ss John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54
Fri:	Feria (Friday abstinence) Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7
Sat:	Bl Diego Luis de San Vitores SJ; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday Romans 4:13-18; Luke 12:8-12
Sun:	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 45:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21

Prayer intentions

Please consider asking for particular prayer intentions at Mass and the lamp before Our Lady of Farm Street. Contact the Parish Office or speak to the sacristan for information on how to make your requests. Details of Mass intentions are on the notice board outside of the sacristy.

The lamp this week is lit for Shala Subrayan, for her life, intentions, and prayers.

○A Call for Prayer and Fasting for Peace

His Eminence, Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has called for Tuesday 17th October to be a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Holy Land. His statement can be read at www.lpj.org.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Christiane, Marie Carroll Copestake, Kyllikki Edelhain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Christopher Halliday, Caroline Harkink, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Donald Mathieson, Robert McCormack, Helen Murphy, Millon Nigussie, Ottilie, Graziella Pirovano, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, Ian Rice, George Tabor, Francis Walsh, Natalie Williams & Michael Wymes

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.

Requiescant in pace

A Day with Mary

When: Saturday 28th October 2023

Where: Westminster Cathedral

9.45am Entry procession of Our Lady of Fatima. Angelus. Crowning. Sung Litany.

10.30am Mass: Celebrant & Preacher: a chaplain of the Cathedral.

11.30am Consecration of the parish to the Immaculate. The Five Joyful Mysteries

12.15pm Lunch break *Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee provided.*

1.20pm Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Silent adoration. The Five Sorrowful Mysteries. Sermon on Our Lady by Fr Stephen Boyle. Meditations on the Passion. Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung). Act of Consecration. Benediction. Procession of Our Lady of Fatima from the Cathedral to Cathedral Hall. The Five Glorious Mysteries.

5.00pm Enrolments in the Brown Scapular and Miraculous Medal in the Cathedral Hall.

Throughout the day: Confession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Faith and Us

A series of short lunchtime talks on issues relating to faith. Talks will begin at 1.35pm in the Cana Lounge at 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH and will last fifteen minutes, followed by time for discussion.

Week 1. 5th October. Faith & Environment

Week 2. 12th October. Faith & Business

Week 3. 19th October. Faith & Work

Week 4. 26th October. Faith & Science

Week 5. 2nd November. Faith & Death

Week 6. 9th November. Faith & Mental Health

Week 7. 16th November. Faith & Art

Week 8. 23rd November. Faith & The Parish Community

Week 9. 30th November. Faith & The Margins

All most welcome.