

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.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The annual UK March for Life will take place on **Saturday 2nd September**. The theme this year is 'Freedom to Live'. 'Many are concerned about restrictions on freedoms but it's often not until these restrictions affect us personally that we speak up. Sadly, those who have their most fundamental freedom taken from them, by abortion, cannot speak for themselves – this is why we march. For our nation to be truly free, no one can be denied the number one freedom, the freedom to live!' (*Taken from the March for Life UK website*). With evermore legislation being proposed to criminalise pro-life witness, it is vital that advocates for the unborn in the UK continue to make their voices heard. The March for Life is a major opportunity to do so.

Morning events: 10.30am – 1.30pm

The Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, SW1P 3DW

Mass: 10.30am

Westminster Cathedral

The March: 1.30pm

From The Emmanuel Centre
Ends at Parliament Square 4.30pm

For more information visit
www.marchforlife.co.uk

A Tent of Learning

Synodal Conversation and Conversion in Receptive Ecumenism

Inspired by a recent Durham University symposium, speakers from seven Christian traditions reflect together on how a church can be truly "synodal". At 114 Mount Street on the 23rd September, 10.30am-5pm. For more information and to book, visit <https://a-tent-of-learning.eventbrite.co.uk/>

HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to steward in the church from 2pm until 4pm on Sunday afternoons. If you are able to help out, please email Steven Fachada on farmstreetppcchair@rcdow.org.uk.

Finding the Language of Grace

Rediscovering Transcendence

Join Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB in conversation with the Rev Jennifer Smith of Wesley's Chapel on the 7th September at 7pm at St Giles Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, Barbican, EC2Y 8DA. Books will be signed.

Bank Holiday Opening Times

Monday 28th August is a Bank Holiday and so the church will be open for reduced hours. The church will open at 10am and close after the 1.05pm Mass at 2pm. Confessions and exposition as normal. There will be no 8am or 6pm Mass.

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 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.

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



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th August 2023

YEAR A TODAY'S RESPONSES

ENTRY

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

RESPONSE

Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

ACCLAMATION

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.

COMMUNION

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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 David Birchall SJ; Fr Damian Howard SJ;

Fr Paul Nicholson SJ; Fr Laco Sulik SJ

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

Debbie Martin, 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 (Latin), 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



WHO AM I?

I first met with this identity- and relationship-based question when I was fifteen years old. I have to say that, when I was asked, I did not know what to say... I found the question too difficult to answer, and I later on wondered what happened to that Jesuit priest (who later on ended up being my Novice master!) who simply put it out there for us teenagers in a three-day retreat discerning our vocation in life. It seems either that he was too wise to risk inviting to religious life young men whose identity was not yet formed or that he thought too highly of us in his estimation that we could engage with such a question and give even an initial answer. This is what may happen to you, too, when you enter into an Ignatian retreat. You may come across a question that can easily shock or overwhelm you. Something, however, must have gone right because, ever since that challenging retreat, I have made sure that I make my spiritual exercises once every year. Back then, we young men all struggled to remain in retreat silence with that penetrating question, but the enquiry prepared me to keep testing the waters of relationship with a deeply personal God who reveals Himself as the one who labours for us out of love (cf. SpEx 236).

I can see that the Gospel question today—"Who do you say that I am?"—may not go down too easily for various reasons. Sometime the tone with which Jesus asks the question allows us to hear it out attentively because it disposes us to listen deeply. At other times, we may feel adventurous enough to come up with our own answer, however insufficient or incomplete. Or we may find ourselves creatively imagining how Jesus would respond to our question about ourselves. What would Jesus say about who we each of us is—and has been—in each decade of our life? I encourage you to try out this prayerful exercise.

In some ways, Jesus' question itself may seem unanswerable, because who can really give a precise and full reply? When the apostle Peter exclaims, "You are the Christ" (Mt 16: 16), that response comes out of him through the powers of grace.

The question has also the flavour of a mystery, because we can never find the complete answer. Saint Paul the apostle affirms this precisely to the Christian community in Rome: "How rich are the depths of God." (Rom 11:33)

And yet, the question is neither unanswerable nor overly mysterious, because it sheds a bit of light on who we are. The question is as important as it is attractive because it keeps us vigilant, inviting us to pay attention to what matters in our life and bringing us closer to the glory of God.

The most natural experience, once we have embraced a more cohesive answer that conveys the integrity of the typically catholic both and, seems to be such as that which the prophet Isaiah records in the Lord's words in the case of Eliakim, "I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house." (Is 22:23)

So, who do you say the Son of Man is? (cf. Mt 16: 13)

Fr Ladislav Šulik SJ

P.S. On a personal note, as you read these lines, I am about to depart for my final stage of Jesuit formation called Tertianship. This inevitably means that I will be leaving the Farm Street parish community. Allow me to express my word of gratitude to each one of you for everything I have received through being part of this parish community and for having had the privilege to know you and to serve you. May you remain faithful to the Gospel and may you experience ever more the Lord's consolation. And we can hope and trust that, when our paths cross again in the future, it may be a joyful occasion!

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).

Liturgical Calendar

Sun:	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20
Mon:	St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor I John 4:7-16; Matthew 23:8-12
Tue:	The Passion of St John the Baptist Jeremiah 1:17-19; Mark 6:17-29
Wed:	Feria; Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32
Thu:	Feria; St Aidan, Bishop, and the Saints of Lindisfarne I Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51
Fri:	Feria (Friday abstinence) I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13
Sat:	Feria; Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday I Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Sun:	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

9.30am Mass Hymns

Entrance	788	Praise to the Holiest in the height
Offertory	602	Almighty Father, Lord most high
Communion	803	Love is his word
Recessional	708	Holy God we praise thy name

11am Solemn Latin Mass Music

The choir are on well-deserved holiday leave for the month of August.

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 a friend who has cancer.

Parish Prayer List

We pray for those in the parish who are sick: Debra Minty Baker, Christiane, Marie Carroll Copestake, Kyllikki Edelshain, Christian Engelhart, Asoka Fernando, Lady Antonia Fraser, Mary Frances Giltz, Caroline Harkink, Erin Lillis, Nikhin, Laura Marani, Robert McCormack, Helen Murphy, Millon Nigussie, Ottilie, Mrs Katerina Porter, Sarah Esparza Regalado, 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

Primetime Mass & Social

We are pleased to host the first Primetime mass on Saturday, 2nd September at 6pm, followed by a social of wine, cheese and biscuits at the Arrupe Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend, however this mass is specially catered to those in their 30s and older. If you would like to help volunteer for organising the mass, please contact Maria Carvalho on email at maria.d.carvalho@gmail.com.

"Beauty and Sorrow: Tolkien's Journey of Faith."

Sunday 10 September 2023, 4-5pm, St Mary's Church, 4 Holly Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 6QU
Dr Holly Ordway is the Cardinal Francis George Professor of Faith and Culture at the Word on Fire Institute, and Visiting Professor of Apologetics at Houston Christian University. She holds a PhD in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and is the author of 'Tolkien's Faith: a Spiritual Biography' and the award-winning 'Tolkien's Modern Reading : Middle-earth Beyond the Middle Ages.'

A unique opportunity to hear insights from a world leading scholar on Tolkien and the influences that shaped his faith.

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

Thursday, 14 September, 11.00am – 4.00pm: Westminster Justice and Peace Outing to 'Plants of the Qur'an' Exhibition, Kew Gardens. We will visit the exhibition in the morning, with time to explore the gardens in the afternoon. Please purchase your own tickets in advance via the Kew website (there are different pricing options) or on arrival. Meet just inside the ticket barriers at the Victoria Gate entrance at 11.00am where we will begin and end the day with prayers. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact Colette Joyce – colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk / 07593 434 905 or Fr Dominic Robinson – domicrobinson@rcdow.org.uk / 07840 868 568 – to let us know you are coming. All welcome.

FARM STREET CHARITY BALL 2023

The Savile Club ~ Saturday, 7th October

A **DINNER TICKET** (£160) INCLUDES THE CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION, WINE WITH DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, LIVE AUCTION, RAFFLE, DANCING UNTIL 1 AM.

A **DANCING-ONLY TICKET** (£45) INCLUDES DANCING FROM 10PM UNTIL 1 AM, ONE GLASS OF HOUSE WINE, RAFFLE.

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT WWW.FARMSTREET.ORG.UK

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE BALL, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR CHARITIES, YOU MAY ALSO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE ON THE BALL PAGE.

SPONSORSHIP OF FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS:

A TABLE ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS, DESIGNED BY HELEN ARISTIDOU, FARM STREET CHURCH'S FLORIST, MAY BE SPONSORED FOR £50. A CARD ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR DONATION WILL BE PLACED ON THE TABLE OR, IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS ('FLOWERS DONATED BY A PARISHIONER').

PROCEEDS OF THE EVENING WILL BENEFIT THESE CHARITIES

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE UK
ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE, ENFIELD
WIMBLEDON (JESUIT) COLLEGE