

Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL, #020 7226 3277

Parish priest: Fr Rajiv Michael (rajivmichael@rcdow.org.uk), **Asst Priest:** Fr Jakub Jozsko(jakubjoszko@rcdow.org.uk),

Administrator (Mon/Thu/Fri): Grace Wu (islington@rcdow.org.uk), **Safeguarding Rep:** Frances Moore
(islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year 1 (Weekdays)

| This Week | | |
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| Weekday masses Mon-Fri: 10 AM | Sunday masses Saturday Vigil at 6 PM Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM <i>Church remains open from 9 AM to 6 PM for private prayer.</i> | Confessions Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM (and anytime, as possible, on request) |

Corruptio optimi pessima. If there is one phrase which can capture the essence of the gospel it might be this: the corruption of the best is the worst. Jesus has been put to the test by the Pharisees till now and he now warns his disciples not to let themselves be called ‘Father’, ‘Teacher’ or ‘Master’, all of which we seem to routinely violate. Jesus’ words seem harsh, but he is not simply ‘giving back’ as good as he has received from the Pharisees. His Word, even his conviction can hurt, but it is like the surgeon’s knife which cuts only to heal. When we allow his Word to penetrate our hearts, we will find how to truly fulfil our own vocation, to be father, teacher and servant-leader. Fr Rajiv (Fr Rajiv’s homily will be updated on <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>).

News & Events

New Parish Administrator: The keen-eyed might have noticed the addition of a new name to our header – Grace Wu – our new parish administrator. Grace will be available at the office between 10:30 and 3:30 on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays as she starts. She’s already managed to breathe a lot of life into the office! We will introduce Grace at a Sunday mass soon, so people are familiar with her.

Synod: The month-long synod on synodality has come to an end. Those interested can find some excellent coverage on what’s been happening, along with detailed reports on the draft documents at the Catholic news site ‘The Pillar’ (www.pillaratholic.com/t/synod-on-synodality).

The month of Holy Souls: You would have noticed the Book of Remembrance at the side chapel. There will be two masses offered each week of November to remember the dead, noted in the Book. Envelopes are available at the back for people to add the names of their loved ones to be included. Please take one and return it along with a suitable Mass offering at the Presbytery. Masses for those who have died and for other intentions can also be booked as needed from the office.

Fr Rajiv’s installation (help needed!): As mentioned last week, Fr Rajiv will be officially ‘installed’ as Parish Priest of St John’s and Bl. Sacrament churches by Bishop Nicholas on the **25th Nov, Saturday**

evening 6 PM. This is a good occasion to have a parish social and also welcome members of Bl. Sacrament parish. We need the help of Parishioners to volunteer in preparing the crypt and providing food for the evening. We need savoury or sweet food to share on the night. In preparation for the reception could Parishioners please sign up on the headed sheets on the tables at the back of the church, indicating contributions of food and offers of assistance. Thank you. Many thanks to Michael Fletcher for kindly coordinating this.

Readers and Eucharistic ministers: As announced last week, we have need for plenty of volunteers/ministers to help build our community. This week, we're calling out for more Readers at Sunday and special feast day masses as well as Eucharistic ministers. These ministries are not just acts of service but also a great privilege. Readers proclaim Christ, who *is* the Word and Eucharistic ministers minister that Word become flesh for us. Readers need to be able to announce clearly so people can hear the Word proclaimed without any problems. There will be a short introduction to what you are meant to do as a Reader. Colette Bowe (colette@redrock23.com) will be kindly coordinating the rota for the Readers. If you wish to become a reader, please contact Colette. Eucharistic ministers will need to be interviewed by the priest, so if you are interested, please drop us a line. There is a requirement for training and formation for these ministries. Going forward, we will try to arrange a half-day retreat/training day, most probably in the New Year.

First Holy Communion Preparation: FHC preparation starts on the **12th Nov, after the 11 AM Mass.** Parents and children are expected to be present at the 11 AM Mass.

Young Adult's Group: Thanks to all those who already contacted us with an interest in forming a young adult's group (usually about 18-35) for fellowship, faith and fun! If you're interested, you can sign up to the John's YAG on Whatsapp using the QR code. **Mark your diaries!** There will be mass and a social event for Catholic young adults (from across London) followed by lunch after, at our sister church, Blessed Sacrament, Copenhagen Street on Dec 3rd, 1 PM. Mass will be celebrated by the Franciscan Friars of Renewal (CFR's).



The Sick and Retired Priests Fund: This weekend, there is a collection for the sick and retired priests fund in the Diocese of Westminster. Last year, it provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. The number of older priests is steadily increasing and caring for them is an important part of our Catholic mission. There are some grants available from NHS and others, but the bulk of the amount still comes from the generosity of parishioners. You can donate via one of the envelopes which can be returned sometime next week to the parish office or by scanning the QR code on the envelopes or posters at the back of the church. Thank you.

Update on the Presbytery works: Our work towards repairing the roof continues. As the work started the workers didn't seal the roof and over the last weekend, the heavy rains flooded the top floor damaging the roof and the floor and it involved us frequently running up to mop. It has become better since, thankfully. Hopefully this will be finished soon, after which there are further works which need to commence!