

# Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

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**Parish priest:** Fr Rajiv Michael, **Asst Priest:** Fr Jakub Jozsko, **Administrator (Mon/Thu/Fri):** Grace Wu

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year B – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023)

This Week		
<b>Weekday masses</b>	<b>Sunday masses</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
Mon: 6:30 PM with Adoration	Saturday Vigil at 6 PM	Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM
Tue: 6:30 PM with <i>Lectio Divina</i>	Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Wed-Fri: 10 AM		

### Advent and Hope

With this Sunday we begin the wonderful season of Advent. Advent is one of the most beautiful seasons of the Church's year. It has some of the most beautiful hymns ever composed and the readings are rich with promise. But so often, they pass us by as we get busy with our day-to-day activities – and we are never busier than in the run up to Christmas! The great grace that God gives us this season is the gift of hope. Without hope we become weary, our lives lose a sense of direction. So, while the city already celebrates Christmas, Christians wait; we wait not simply for Christmas but first of all, for the coming of Christ, the basis of our hope. Advent, for the first part recalls the promise of Christ that he will come again to judge the living and the dead, and it is a cause of hope and joy for us. The season of Advent wakes us up to wait with intent and to throw off all that makes our hearts weary. Do you find yourself tired and worn out at this time? Come and listen. Come with expectation. God wants to renew your life this season. Do not let it pass you by!

### News & Events

**Change to Mass Times:** As announced previously, please note the change to mass times during the week: we temporarily move masses on Monday and Tuesday to the evening at 6:30 PM. We will have a half hour of Adoration on Monday evenings after Mass and a *Lectio Divina*, engaging the Sunday readings on Tuesday evenings after Mass. Please do make use of this opportunity to grow deeper in faith this Advent!

**Christmas Carols:** *Communion & Liberation* (CL), one of the new movements in the Church, have offered to do a Carol service on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, Saturday at 4:30 PM. This will be for an hour or so and it will finish before evening Mass at 6 PM. Please do come along, and bring your friends!

**Christmas Invite:** We want to invite people to our Church this Christmas; this is simply to drop a flyer (available at the back) into people's letterboxes, making known to them the times of our service with a welcoming message. Please do take a few (at least 20) for your street; this would be a simple, non-intrusive way of inviting people to come to Mass and Carols for Christmas. Special thanks to Fiona Hicks for getting the cards done.

**RCIA:** This weekend, our candidates who wish to become full members of the Church make their “first vows” at the 11 am Mass at both St John’s and Blessed Sacrament. This is the Rite of Acceptance, where the candidates who have been in preparation are formally enrolled as catechumens. Please pray for them on their continued journey of faith: Stephanie, Caoimhe, Linda, Pauline, Kanty, Daniella, Emeka, Ange, Godswill, Robert, Marco, Rodrigo, Tzoulio, and Joaquin.”

**Reconciliation Service:** A reminder that our reconciliation service will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, Friday at 6:30 PM with visiting priests. **Mass times** for Christmas have now been published and can be obtained on the noticeboard and on the website.

**Advent Retreats:** Advent is a great time to renew our spiritual lives, and one way is to make a retreat. There are plenty of retreat options available, to suit those who can go away and even those who cannot! The QR code gives one run by the Carmelites online, but others can be found through a simple search for Advent retreats.



**Year of Prayer:** This Advent we also enter into what has been declared as a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, leading up to the **Jubilee year of 2025**. To help participate in this fully and grow in our spiritual lives, we will be making available for each week, the catechesis that Pope Francis has given on prayer. The first is available as a print out outside, please do take one!

**Outreach:** The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to *Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ* with **cheques** made out to SVP or by **bank transfer** to Nat West **Sort Code 60-60-04, Account no. 4608 8237** . Thank you so much for your support."

**Healing Service:** There will be a Eucharistic healing service, for physical and emotional healing, led by the Cenacle Prayer group at our sister parish, **Blessed Sacrament Church** on **9<sup>th</sup> Dec**, Saturday, at 6 PM. All are welcome, and bring others who would benefit from this. They’ve seen God working powerfully through this type of prayer and it promises to be a great time of grace!

**Consecration to the Immaculate Heart:** We will be consecrating our parishes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the feast day of 8<sup>th</sup> December (we will do the consecration on the Sunday after the feast). Please join us in our parish Novena, asking God for the graces we need!

**Heating & Maintenance:** We apologise for our cold church on this bitterly cold weekend! Our boilers have broken down – they went down on Friday and unfortunately, there was no one available to come fix it before Sunday. Hopefully it will be set right for next week!

**Our phone lines** are still down. If you have been calling us, I apologise, we are unable to take your calls at the moment. We can still be reached on our parish email!

## Novena in preparation for Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

As previously mentioned, it is our hope to consecrate the parishes of St John's and Bl. Sacrament to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the feast day of 8<sup>th</sup> December (we will do the consecration on the Sunday after the feast). This is a way of entrusting all our parishioners, our parish area, our needs and cares to Our Lady. Thanks to all those who promised to pray a decade of the rosary for the needs of the parish (hopefully you've not given up!) Please see the novena on the sheet attached; let us join together in prayer and ask God for his grace through the intercession of his Mother.

### Day One (29<sup>th</sup> November)

Let us pray today for all the families in our parish. May the Holy Family inspire love, mercy, faithfulness and joy, especially in families where it is lacking. May the larger family of our parish become a true community of love, infused with the fire of the Spirit.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Joseph. *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

### Day Two (30<sup>th</sup> November)

Let us pray for our schools, for the staff and for our children.

Let us pray they might inspire true faith, hope and love in children and the teachers and staff might be given the grace to exemplify what they are called to teach.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St John Bosco, patron saint of youth: *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



### Day Three (1<sup>st</sup> December)

Let us pray for our young people and those searching for their vocation and mission in life. May the light of Christ enlighten their hearts and may our community be a place of faith, fellowship and love.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Aloysius Gonzaga, patron saint of young people: *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Four (2<sup>nd</sup> December)**

Let us pray for those who are elderly and those who are vulnerable; let us also pray for those who are suffering from various sickness, mental or physical. May the Passion of Christ give them strength and peace in their suffering and difficulties. May we be a caring community where they will find support and joy.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Jeanne Jugan, patron saint of the elderly: *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Five (3<sup>rd</sup> December)**

Let us pray for those who have died and those who grieve them. May the risen Lord provide them his consolation. May our community be a place where those in pain can experience the love of the risen Christ. May the souls of the faithful departed, by the mercy of God, *rest in peace.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Elizabeth Ann Seton, patron saint of those who grieve: *Pray for us.* St John, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Six (4<sup>th</sup> December)**

Let us pray for our priests and religious; may the Lord strengthen them in their calling, give them his wisdom to lead his people and his heart to hold the needs of all.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St John Vianney, patron saint of priests: *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Seven (5<sup>th</sup> December)**

Let us pray for those who are poor, homeless, those suffering from various addictions in our neighbourhood. May the Lord inspire us to be messengers of his mercy to all those in need.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Benedict Joseph Labare, patron saint of the homeless: *Pray for us.* St John, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Eight (6<sup>th</sup> December)**

Let us pray for the evangelisation of Islington and King's Cross. Let us pray for those who do not know the love of Christ or his Church, those in our own homes and families, all who pass through our neighbourhood, whom Christ is waiting to touch with his Mercy. May the Lord make us channels of his mercy and grace to all.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St John Paul II, patron saint of the New Evangelisation: *Pray for us.* St John, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

#### **Day Nine (7<sup>th</sup> December)**

Let us pray for all who work for the betterment of our community. Let us pray for the work of all the Christian churches around us and their pastors. May our witness of unity fulfil the gospel command that others will know that we are Christ's disciples.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

St Francis of Assisi, second patron of our parish: *Pray for us.* St John the Evangelist, *pray for us.*

Our Lady, conceived without sin. *Pray for us who have recourse to thee.*