

Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

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

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

Parish Office: islington@rcdow.org.uk, **Safeguarding Rep:** Frances Rooney (islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B – 10th Dec 2023)

This Week		
Weekday masses	Sunday masses	Confessions
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	<i>Reconciliation service 15th Dec 6:30 PM.</i>	

The second week of Advent, we are confronted by the fierce figure of the Baptist. John is the voice who prepares for the coming of the Word, Jesus Christ. He is the last of the OT prophets. He performs no miracles; the content of his preaching is shorter than the shortest of the prophetic books; yet Jesus declares him as the greatest of them all. Whence his greatness? While all the prophets envisioned the hope for the Messiah, none knew what he would be like or how he would come. But John could point to the One and say, 'Behold the Lamb!'. John sums up the message of the prophets in himself, but he has nothing much to say except for the people to repent – even as he points to the Coming One. He does the same today; John arrives to tell us to repent of our sins, and await the one who is the desire of our hearts.

News & Events

Christmas Carols: *Communion & Liberation (CL)*, one of the new movements in the Church, have offered to do a Carol service on the **16 December, Saturday at 4:30 PM**. This will be for an hour or so and it will finish before evening Mass at 6 PM. There will be a collection at the end for the Friends of the Holy Land, providing much needed humanitarian relief in Gaza. There will be a reception in the Crypt afterwards for those wishing to celebrate. Do come along and bring your friends!

Carols at Westminster Cathedral: Tickets are now on sale for the Westminster Cathedral annual Christmas concert, performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, and celebrity readers, on 19 and 20 December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

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 Invite: Help more people come to Church this Christmas! You can do so simply by dropping 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 for your street; this would be a simple, non-intrusive way of inviting people to come to Mass and Carols for Christmas!

Reconciliation Service: A reminder that our reconciliation service will be on the 15th 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.

Stop the 14-day limit on experimenting on embryos being removed: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans. The current legislation is already an affront to human dignity. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool to email your MP asking them to oppose a change in this legislation. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/14days to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

Affordable Psychotherapy & Life Coaching: Low-cost counselling and psychotherapy is made available through Wilfrid's House is a BACP-accredited, registered charity based at the Brompton Oratory. This is to support individuals who are going through challenges such as anxiety, depression, inability to cope with daily life, relationship issues, and bereavement. Life coaching helps individuals feeling overwhelmed and unable to move forward with purpose with practical support, enabling clarity to achieve their goals. Further information at www.wilfridhouse.org.

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**. There is a teaching on prayer which has been given by Pope Francis over the course of his pontificate made available for us. The first is available as a print out outside, please do take one – please see the website for the rest.

The SVP are distributing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter at a cost of £4.20 per pack. You could support them by donating via **bank transfer** to Nat West **Sort Code 60-60-04, Account no. 4608 8237** . Thank you so much for your support!

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart: This weekend we are consecrating our parishes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the end of our Masses. This is a way of entrusting our parish, all our families, our neighbourhood and ourselves to Mary, that God might have his way with us, and fulfill his plan for our lives.

Heating & Maintenance: Our boilers are limping back to life, hopefully it has not been as cold here as last week but they should be fully fixed this coming week. **Our phone lines** are still down and we are chasing them up. We can still be reached on our parish email!

