

# Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL

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

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## 4th Sunday, Ordinary Time (Year B – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024)

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

### *Feast of the Presentation*

This Friday, 2nd February, coming up this week is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It marks the 40th day of Christmas. Just as Lent has forty days and Easter fifty days, there are forty days of the Christmas season as well. It is customary to remove the crib when the forty days are over. The reason for this feast marking the end of the Christmas season is Scriptural. In the gospel of Luke, the first section dealing with the Birth of Jesus, finishes with the Presentation in the Temple. Mary's presentation of Jesus is in line with the Mosaic Law that the first-born male child should be dedicated to the Lord on the fortieth day. It means that the child is offered up to God and no longer belongs to the parents. Normally the child would be 'redeemed', i.e. to say 'bought back' through the offering of a sacrifice. In his description of the event, Luke mentions the sacrifice but his writing implies that the child is dedicated and left behind in the Temple for the service of God. Jesus of course, goes back with Mary and Joseph, but from the beginning it is shown that his life is a simple offering to the Father. At the end of his life, he will be offered up once more, to the human race, by the Father for our salvation. The beauty and symbolism of the feast has also meant that it is a time when those who have been consecrated to the Religious life renew their vows. It is a good time to renew our own baptismal vows and offer of ourselves to the Father who gives up everything for us.

We will celebrate the Mass at 10 AM with candles lit and a procession from the door. After Mass, the crib will be removed – if there are people to give a hand after the morning Mass that will be very appreciated! Fr Rajiv's homily will be updated on <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>

## News & Events

**Retreat in Daily Life:** Lent is almost upon us, even as we are thinking of Christmas! We wanted to bring to your attention some ways you can recharge your spiritual batteries this Lent, perhaps through a Retreat in Daily Life (RIDL) for those unable to afford a week or even a weekend away. RIDL's are designed to be taken up within the busyness of your days and **offered via Zoom or in person at the London Jesuit Center on Mondays**. The opening and closing group sessions enable you to meet others who will be your spiritual travelling companions as we form a **praying**

**community for 5 weeks.** Each week you will meet individually with a trained retreat guide. Your guide will offer you suggestions for prayer and listen with you to how the Holy Spirit is at work in your life. Wednesday evenings offer an optional online guided prayer time of an hour to which all retreatants are welcome. The introductory session **is on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday, between 4pm-5.30pm.** Ends Saturday 23rd March. More info and registration at [www.londonjesuitcentre.org](http://www.londonjesuitcentre.org)

**University Students are invited to a course on Catholic Medical Ethics.** This is a chance to learn the Church's understanding and response, especially to difficult ethical questions. This semester, Dr Mehmet Çiftçi of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford, alongside other guest academics will lead a **seven-week virtual Bioethics** lecture series for the group. The lectures will take place on Mondays between 7pm and 8pm on Microsoft Teams starting Monday 5th February. To sign up, or for more information, please email Laurence Jasper ([laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk)), Catholic Lay Chaplain of King's College London using your university email account.

**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.wilfridshouse.org](http://www.wilfridshouse.org).

**Confirmation:** We started our Confirmation programme last week. We have about ten youngsters this year. It's a smaller number but that might be better in terms of their spiritual experience. Please do say a prayer for them if you remember!

**Weddings:** Those who wish to be married in the Catholic Church should ideally approach the priest of the parish where they live, at least six months before the proposed wedding date. There are formalities to be completed which are best given some time. If you are Catholic and not been Confirmed, at least in the UK, the Bishops Conference requires confirmation before the wedding. Again, for this to happen, it is best that you approach the priest a year in advance or at the earliest possible so preparations can be made towards Confirmation.

**From the Presbytery:** Our phone lines are still down, and we apologise for the great delay. The contract we were on had to be cancelled and we've had to change providers. What we expected to be quite simple has proven wonderfully complex! We thank you for your patience, but please mail us if you need to reach us. You might have noticed the **scaffolding is down** (finally!). The work on the leaking roof is almost complete, but as with all construction things are never simple and we're trying to verify that everything is in order. More urgent work needs happening with the rest of the house. Hopefully, you find the church warm, at least the weekends. We have a limited service right now with the boilers. They are in a bad shape, but thankfully they can be restored, and we are having them repaired. **On better news,** Fr Jakub and I are pretty much back to order, I think. Hopefully we'll stay that way, and we won't have any nasty surprises!