

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

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

6th Sunday, Ordinary Time (Year B – 11th Feb 2024)

This Week		
Weekday masses (this week)	Sunday masses	Confessions
Mon, Tues, Fri: 10 AM	Saturday Vigil at 6 PM	Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM
Ash Weds: 10 AM & 6 PM	Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Thurs: 10 AM foll. by Stations	<i>Stations: Every Thurs, 10 AM (Fri 7 PM at Bl. Sacrament Church)</i>	

Mark gives a powerful account of Jesus healing a leper in our gospel today. Lepers, then, as now in many places, remain a social pariah. Their disfigurement, and fears associated with the disease have caused them to be confined to the outskirts of society from the middle ages till today in some countries. Francis of Assisi was one of those repulsed by lepers. One day, on horseback, still on his journey of conversion, he encounters a leper in the field. In a moment, he decides. Rather than run, he gets down, approaches and kisses the leper. It would become a pivotal moment of healing for Francis. The next minute the leper had vanished in the open field causing Francis to realise that this leper was Christ. Who are the lepers in our life today? Maybe there are parts we hide as we struggle with acceptance. Jesus does not reject us. Come and be touched by Jesus. Receive his mercy and be healed. Fr Rajiv's homily will be updated on <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>

News & Events

Date for the diary – 18th February: As mentioned last week, we'll have our parish meeting, open to everyone on the 18th February, **after the 11 AM Mass**. I was hoping to gather people together for another meeting after our initial one in October, to give an update and chart the course forward. But as it happens, the second stage of the Synod meeting has been thrust upon us at short notice and this is the only date available. The questions the bishops have asked us to discuss happily coincide with what we've already been looking at and will be provide for good reflection and discussion, I think. They have asked us to reflect on questions of how we can be, as individuals and a parish community, a missionary people, in carrying the gospel to our neighbours, near and far; and how we, as individuals and as a Parish, have the right structures, and formation to enable us to do so. We will try to keep it to an hour and a half. We hope many of you will attend!

Lent Starts Next Wednesday: From next week, our **weekday masses on Monday and Tuesday will be in the evening at 6 PM for Lent**. Following Mass on Mondays we will also have a short DVD **Bible study on the Passion** and Tuesdays we will have a **half hour of Adoration** immediately after Mass. The Passion is the core of the gospel stories. We might have heard it several times, from our childhood, but you will be surprised at the incredible depths of insight you will find when digging into the Scriptural background to this. It promises to change your living of Lent and your experience

of Christ's love for you, so do take advantage of this! Monday sessions will be no longer than an hour; we hope to see many of you there!

Thanks for your generosity to the Columban Missionaries and the Friends of the Holy Land, we had over at Christmas/January period. We collected £613.55 for the former and £368.71 for the latter!

RCIA: Please pray for our candidates for baptism and/or full communion with the Catholic church as they celebrate the Rite of Signing this Sunday at the 11 am Mass - Godswill, Robert. Rodrigo, Tzoulio, Kanty, Daniella, Stephanie, Caoimhe and Marco - and then go forward to the Rite of Election before the Cardinal at Westminster Cathedral next Saturday 17th.

Fun Evening! We have an exciting event, a lively Ceilidh 🎵🍷 coming up on the 20th of March, 7:15 PM. It will be in the luxurious St Columba's hall, Chelsea. This traditional Scottish dance event promises to be an evening of fun, laughter, and a great chance to come together as a parish. But that's not all – this ceilidh is usually run as a fundraiser for charities and this time, **it's being donated towards the needs of our own parish**, to support the restoration of our church buildings, which are in desperate need of repair. You'll not only be enjoying a fantastic night out but also helping St John's! **Tickets for the ceilidh are available starting from £16**, and profits will go directly towards the restoration efforts. If it goes well Carver Ceilidhs have said we may be able to do it every year as a fund raiser for the church! Do join in! Details in the QR. Thanks to Fiona Hicks for coordinating this.



Food Bank: Many of you will be aware of the Food bank at Bl.Sacrament Church, run on Thursdays. We're setting up a collection for (not immediately perishable) food stuffs which people might wish to donate towards this. You can drop this off in the basket in the foyer on Sundays or at the Presbytery weekdays, **before Thursday**. It would be a great help to have a few people cover a weekly run on Thursdays to the Foodbank to drop the collected food there. Thanks to Patrick Carroll for volunteering with this – if others could give him a hand that would be very appreciated!

Resonate is Westminster Youth Ministry's official Catholic intellectual formation series for young adults aged 18-35 within the Diocese of Westminster. **Fr Ivano is giving a series of talks** on the Our Father, starting Feb 28th, in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Pls see the poster for details.

Have a TV you don't need anymore? We are hoping to source a large-ish (45"+) flatscreen TV for the Green Room (previously known as the 'Crying' Room) at the left of the sanctuary. It is to help with audio/visual presentations, teachings and catechetics. Currently, our RCIA group meet there, and they would greatly benefit from having a visual aid for some of their formation. Going forward it would also help to have talks on topical themes and this room could be a good space where this could be facilitated. In an ideal world, this would be a HDMI, Smart TV which can connect to Wifi. Our current cashflow means it might take us sometime to procure a new TV; rather than wait a long time, we could happily settle for something more modest if it's being disposed of! A fully working flatscreen TV, able to connect to a laptop and which can be wall mounted will be a great help for the moment!

