

# 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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5th Sunday, Ordinary Time (Year B – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 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)

I have always wondered how many people would react to see Jesus healing their mother-in-law. Whereas many might be thrilled for the divine intervention, I wonder if others might be a bit less overjoyed... Jokes aside, it is striking that, Christ does not only come to heal us, the 'good, poor, oppressed sons and daughters (and mothers-in-law)' but everyone who needs his healing. Indeed, all of us are in great need of the touch of Jesus Christ! What is the fruit of this healing? Action! Peter's mother-in-law immediately starts to serve them. Not out of duty or sense of guilt or even to keep the appearances, but out of gratitude – and joy! Joy is the fuel that undergirds all our action; to be Christian is to live a life overflowing with gratitude for all we have received. Let us ask the Lord for his healing today! Fr Jakub

Fr Rajiv's homily will be updated on <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>

## News & Events

**Date for the diary:** As you might be aware the first stage of the gathering of the Bishops for the **Synod** on synodality ended last October and preparations are underway for the second session, in October 2024. Towards that end, the Bishops of England and Wales have requested that all parishes have another **Synodal Parish consultation** on the themes of **Mission and Formation**. 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. These are important questions, and it will certainly make for an enriching discussion (I hope). Happily, these are questions we have already started looking at, with our last meeting and it can help shape our own vision as we move forward. This has been mandated to us at short notice and we are required to submit the results of our consultation by the end of this month. Towards that, I would like to propose a meeting on the **18<sup>th</sup> February, after the 11 AM Mass**, in the Crypt. We will try to keep it to an hour and a half. We hope many of you will attend!

**Approaching Lent:** As we did at Advent, we will be moving our **weekday masses on Monday and Tuesday to the evening at 6 PM**. We hope this will give more people the chance to come to Mass

during the week. 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!

**Does the thought of a Retreat seem impossible with a family?** The **PULSE Retreat group** are a group of families who have come together to cater to the spiritual needs of families in particular (with and without children). These are sought after, and there will be times of teaching and personal prayer for parents with Fr Matt Blake, Carmelite, to help (re)discover the power of prayer. Children 0-12 y.o. participate in a school of prayer tailored to their age run by volunteers.

If you would like to register or just know a little bit more, please visit the website:

<https://www.pulse-retreats.com/> Registrations open for the next weekend retreat 16th-17th March are open: Sat 11am until Sunday 4:30pm @ SPEC Centre, Pinner HA5 3EP

**Food Bank:** Our sister Church, Blessed Sacrament at Copenhagen Street run a Food Bank on Thursdays. We thought it might be a good idea to have a collection for (not immediately perishable) food stuffs which people might wish to donate each week towards the Food Bank. For a start, we might place a basket in the foyer on Sundays where food can be collected. The more difficult bit is working out the logistics. We would need someone (preferably a few people) with a car who could volunteer to do weekly runs taking this to the Food Bank either on Wednesdays or Thursdays. If this is of interest and you're able to help, please give us a shout!

**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!

**From the Presbytery:** The scaffolding you might have noticed is (finally) down! The work on the roof for the Presbytery is more or less complete. As the builders started work, they kept discovering more damage and deterioration which could not be put away for later. The final costs have been unfortunately much more than what we initially anticipated. Work on the boilers continues at present and thankfully they can be restored for a reasonable price. We will include a very brief word on these works at our meeting for the Synod and give an update for the whole parish a little bit later.