

Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL, 0207 226 3277

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

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4th Sunday of Lent (Year B – 10th Mar 2024)

This Week		
Weekday masses (this week)	Sunday masses	Confessions
Mon-Fri: 10 AM (Mission – see separate timetable)	Saturday Vigil at 6 PM	Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM
Mon/Tues: Mass also at 6 PM (Lenten events after-replaced by Mission)	Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
	Stations: 10 AM Stations replaced by Mission event (<i>Stations Fri 7 PM at Bl. Sacrament Church</i>)	

Mothering Sunday

Have you ever wondered why ‘Mother’s day’ always falls on the Fourth Sunday of Lent in the UK? The tradition is different in the US, of course and the two are related by no more than the name. But this day has very ancient origins. The association of the fourth Sunday of Lent with Mother’s day comes from the texts of the Mass. The introit (the psalm verse a priest reads before Mass begins, when no music is present) of this Sunday reads *"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and come together, all you that love her; rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow, that you may exult and be satisfied from the breasts of your consolation."* An ancient rite of the Church includes Galatians 4:21-31, which says, ‘Jerusalem...is our Mother’. The Lenten penance in the Middle Ages was so severe, that the Fourth Sunday gave a bit of reprieve, something to celebrate, as they neared the goal of the great celebration of Easter to continue their fast and penance and encourage each other on the journey. On this day, the flowers and music came back, there would be ‘Simnel cakes’, a type of fruit cake with two layers of almond paste (although I’m not sure how ancient this is!). Apparently, it was common then, for children to leave home for work in domestic service, as young as ten years old. This became a day when those who had left home, both young and old made a pilgrimage back to their Mother Church, the place of their baptism. This return to the ‘mother’ church became an occasion for joyful family reunions. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wildflowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift. In the 1600's a clerical decree in England broadened the celebration from one focused on the church and the Virgin Mary, to include all mothers, referring to the occasion as Mothering Day. So today, let us give thanks to God for our mothers, in gratitude for the life they’ve given us, for the love they’ve shown us and their sacrifices which have made us who we are. Let us give thanks to God for giving us birth into new life, the life of grace in the Church, our Mother. We don’t have Simnel cakes here, unfortunately, but we do have some cookies and a coffee after our morning Mass. Do stay for the coffee and join us in celebrating this day as the family and children of God, in this your parish Church.

News & Events

Parish Mission 9-14th March: Our parish mission begins this Sunday! I hope you’re excited because God has something good in store for all of us! Do make the time to come, and you will find that you are rewarded for your efforts, as God is not outdone in generosity! As mentioned earlier, the mission will be led by the Franciscans of the Renewal. They’re a very dynamic, happy group of friars, who try and live

out the charism of Francis, especially that of poverty, very seriously. They have no mobiles, no wifi and only eat what is given to them. There is a rich morning programme each day at St John's and we have a very exciting line up of evening encounters at Blessed Sacrament. Also back is the **healing service** which was so powerful last time we had it. **Do not miss this opportunity of grace. Give an extra hour of your week to God this Lent. Bring your friends. It might change everything!**

<p>Morning programme @ St John's (Mon-Thurs) Eucharistic Adoration finishing with Morning Prayer 8:45am - 9:45am; Mass at 10 AM Short meditation on virtues after Mass</p> <p>(We will continue having our evening Mass though it will not be part of the mission and there will be no Lenten activity after).</p>	<p>Evening Programme @ Bl. Sacrament (7 PM onwards) <i>Each evening starts with Adoration with music</i></p> <p>Monday: Talk on God's Love</p> <p>Tues: Talk on God's Mercy with availability of Reconciliation</p> <p>Weds: Healing Service with opportunity for individual prayer</p> <p>Thurs: Final Mass of Our Lady, 7 PM</p>
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The friars will be available to meet with personally, if you so wish – you could speak to us or mail the office with a time that might work for you. If you would like them to visit you, that can also be arranged.)

Collection for Mission: There will be a second collection after the Mass next week (5th Sunday) to say thank you to the Friars. If you would like to give something to them beforehand, please do contact the office and we can include it in our gift to them.

Holy Week & Easter: Our Holy Week and Easter services times are published and available on the notice board and the website. They will also be made available through the newsletter next week, so you can have a hardcopy to collect.

Coffee after Mass: We hope to continue with at least a monthly coffee after the morning Mass – if you're able to volunteer, please let us know at islington@rcdow.org.uk

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Married Couples: The Cardinal is inviting couples celebrating significant anniversaries - 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) – to come together to give thanks for the gift of their marriage and to renew their vows. The **Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.** It will be an opportunity to acknowledge the joys and blessings of marriage, while remaining mindful of the need for healing and compassion for those who have experienced upset and suffering in their married life. If you would like to go, please give mail us the following details: your names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or tel number, if no email).

Legion of Mary: The Legion is a lay apostolic group who are devoted to Our Lady and undertake various apostolic activities like visiting prisons, homes of the sick, etc. They meet for a time of devotional prayer in the basement of the parish Every Tuesday @7pm. New members welcome!
 Call Maame on 07956430921