

Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

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5th Sunday of Lent (Year B – 17th Mar 2024)

This Week		
Weekday masses (this week)	Sunday masses	Confessions
Mon-Tues: Mass also at 6 PM	Saturday Vigil at 6 PM	Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM
Weds-Fri: 10 AM	Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM	Tuesdays: 6:50-7:20 PM with Adoration.
Stations: Thursday 10 AM Stations (Stations Fri 7 PM at Bl. Sacrament Church)		(also anytime, as possible, on request)

Deo Gratias

We finished our Mission this week with the Friars. As promised, it was a week of grace, blessed be God! We had six Franciscan friars of the Renewal staying with us. It took a bit of logistical weightlifting to get everything organised, but it was richly rewarded. The Friars did talks after Mass each morning, visited many who were sick, and those who requested visits and the schools. They listened to a lot of Confessions and made themselves available to provide counsel to all who came. The main programmes were in the evening with its highlight being the Healing Service. We are still receiving news of all those who had powerful experiences of God touching their lives this week. Some wrote in to say it ‘changed everything’ and ‘made such a difference’. It was a luxury to have the ministry of not one or two but six friars, so rooted in the love of God and living out in their constant service to the poor. I hope you had your own personal experience of God’s love in this Mission – maybe you had a major healing or something simpler, like knowing deep within you are truly loved by God. If you did, we would love to hear from you. Catholics are *not* very good at giving testimony to what God has done in our lives.

Catholics constantly experience God’s grace in various ways in their lives, but usually keep it to themselves. But this is a Scriptural – when the Gerasene demoniac who had been healed wanted to follow him, Jesus instructs him instead, saying ‘Go and tell people what God in his goodness has done for you’ (Mk 5:19). We glorify God by telling people how he has shown his goodness in our lives. At the same time, it renews our own faith and love, as it reminds us (since we forget easily, especially in times of hardship) that God is faithful and loves us. It gives new faith and hope to others who hear us. Today, and over the coming weeks we will print out some of the reports that we get, and hopefully it will build you up as well! If you don’t want your name published, we could do it with just your initials, your first name only or even anonymously. But do write in! Here’s one we received, below:

“I would like to say how much I enjoyed the mission this week. I was only able to attend two of the four days but I felt uplifted by the healing service and the Mass last night to Our Lady. At times it feels that we are all just going through the motions and we need an extra boost to get us back on track. I feel this was the case this week.” - H

Collection for Mission: There is a second collection this week for the Mission. It would be nice to say thank you to the Friars for their ministry and generosity towards us. You can also contribute by handing in something at the office.

New Weekday Mass at Bl. Sacrament: We will be introducing a weekday Mass on **Wednesdays** at Blessed Sacrament Church, **at 1230 pm from 20th March**. There are plenty of offices around the area

and we hope it will be of use to the many Catholics working in some of these places. If you do know people who work there, please let them know of the availability of Mass during the week near them! Also, given the very few people attending, this weekend will be the last of the Sat. morning Mass at Bl.Sacrament.

Holy Week & Easter Timetable

Palm Sunday (24th Mar)	Mass at 6.00pm (Sat), 9.30am & 11.00am <i>Palms blessed and distributed at each Mass</i>
Holy Week	Monday (25th): Mass at 6 PM /Confessions after Mass Tues (26th: No Mass)- 12 Noon Chrism Mass at Cathedral / Confessions at St John's 6 PM Weds (27th): Mass at 10 AM / Confessions after Mass
Maundy Thursday (28th Mar)	10 AM: Morning Prayer / Confession after Morning Prayer 7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>Watching at the altar of Repose until 11:30 PM</i>
Good Friday (29th Mar)	10 AM Morning Prayer 10:30 AM Children's Stations of the Cross 3 PM Solemn Remembrance of the Lord's Passion 7 PM Stations of the Cross /Confession available
Holy Saturday (30th Mar)	10 AM Morning Prayer / Confession after Morning Prayer 8:30 PM Easter Vigil begins
Easter Sunday (31st Mar)	Mass 9:30 AM, 11 AM

(For Blessed Sacrament times of Holy Week and Easter Services, please check the Bl. Sacrament parish website)

Blessed Sacrament School: This Thursday we received the very sad news that the Blessed Sacrament Catholic school will be closed. This is a shock to all of us, even more so the pupils, parents and the staff. The headteacher has been wonderful in working and keeping the school up in very challenging conditions, as have the governing board. The Diocese worked very hard to keep the school open by making it part of a Catholic Academy. Unfortunately, these efforts have proven futile. I quote from the letter given to the parents informing them of this decision: *Unfortunately, our application to join the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust has been rejected by the Department for Education. Consequently, Islington Council [plans] to close the school at the end of the Summer Term....Throughout this process, Islington Council has remained resolute in their plan, and have not heeded our efforts to engage in meaningful dialogue. Despite the dedication and investment from a highly successful Trust, it seems that our path forward has been redirected. Blessed Sacrament is a good school, but sadly there has not been accurate recognition of this.*

Please keep everyone involved, especially the pupils and staff in your prayers at this difficult time.

Easter Confessions: Have you visited the Sacrament of Reconciliation lately? Easter is the greatest feast of the God's love and Mercy. But we should *want* to receive this Mercy. God cannot force his gifts on us. An important way open for us is through Reconciliation. There are confessions available on Saturdays, Tuesdays and through Holy Week; but we can also be available at a convenient time for you. *Come! If you've stayed away a long time, it is not a problem!* If you would rather not confess to us, an easy option would be either the Cathedral (westminstercathedral.org.uk) or Brompton Oratory (bromptonoratory.co.uk) which have daily (anonymous) confessions, with times listed on their website!

Parish Ceilidh! Last push for our parish Ceilidh. If you've not got your tickets yet, you can still do so! Come, it will be a happy event and a chance to get to know your fellow parishioners at a fun evening!