

Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

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

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Palm Sunday (Year B – 24th Mar 2024)

Holy Week & Easter Timetable

Holy Week	
Monday (25 th)	6 PM Mass / (Final dvd session) Confessions available
Tues (26 th)	No Mass. 12 Noon Chrism Mass at Cathedral 6 PM Adoration and Confessions at St John's
Weds (27 th)	10 AM Mass followed by half hour Adoration Confessions after Mass
Easter	
Maundy Thursday (28 th 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 (29 th 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 Confessions available
Holy Saturday (30 th Mar)	10 AM Morning Prayer / Confession after Morning Prayer 8:30 PM Solemn Easter Vigil begins
Easter Sunday (31 st Mar)	Mass 9:30 AM, 11 AM (Summer Time Begins – Clock go Forward!)

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

Hosanna to the Son of David!

With this Sunday, the great week of Passover begins. Most people think of Christmas as the holiest time of the year, but in truth, it is this week, which the Church considers the most sacred. It is the most sacred, because it is this week in which our salvation was won. With Maundy Thursday, Lent finishes and Easter begins. *Easter is a three-day festival.* It is like a Mass in three parts, over three days – none of which are optional! It is unfortunate that in English we call this 'Easter' which comes more from a pagan festival rather than reflect its Jewish-Christian origins. The correct name for it is rather Passover or *Pascha* as it is called in most European languages. Passover is a verb, rather than a noun, like 'Easter'. It indicates movement, something happening. What is happening? *We are passing over* from death into life. This is not something symbolic. It is we who are passing over, not the Christians from two thousand years ago or Israel from even further afar. The Jews understood this event to be so real, it was as if each person around their Passover banquet were themselves being brought out of Egypt that year. We all need deliverance from Egypt. We need deliverance from the things and events that enslave us. Maybe with our best resolutions for Lent, all it has shown us is just how difficult, if not impossible it is for us to keep them. That we are enslaved by our fears, our needs for affirmation and approval, our worries about our future and money, our looks and health, our mobile phones, our constant restlessness, and our inability to give sufficient attention and love to those around us. Maybe we have discovered that we are poorer than we imagined in terms of our strength to conquer all. Then, rejoice! Christ comes to deliver

those who cannot deliver themselves, those who know they need saving. This Passover, Christ wants to take us with him into a new place of life and love, so we will be free to experience and enjoy the freedom of the sons and daughters of God. It is when we were set free from all that held us captive and given new life as children of God.

We are very blessed to have several catechumens being baptised at the Easter Vigil alongside those being received into the Church from other denominations and those being confirmed as adults. We bless God for this grace he works in the lives of people year after year. Come! Do not miss what God has in store for you. *The collection taken on Good Friday will be for the preservation of the places in the Holy Land.*

Collection for Mission: We collected £210 from St John's and £559.41, from Bl.Sacrament - £769.41 so far towards the mission. You are still welcome to contribute, and we will send this over to the Franciscan Friars with our thanks for their ministry to us last week! Many thanks!

Easter Offertory envelopes are available at the back and can be returned anytime via the presbytery letterbox or in person. As always, your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Knowing your Bible better: An exciting series of talks from some high-profile speakers are being offered at **Guardian Angels Church, Mile End** on Monday evenings beginning **15th April 2024**. The talks include an exploration of the books of Deuteronomy, Gospel of John, Hebrews and also a practical exploration of praying with the Scriptures. Leaflets available at the back.

Lourdes: Registration for the **Westminster diocesan pilgrimage** led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open either online or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by **Tuesday 30th April**.

Catholic Medical Association Annual Symposium: This year's CMA symposium will take as its subject 'The Ethics of Public Health Medicine and the Common Good'. It will explore how Catholic Bioethics & Social Teaching impact on the realm of public health medicine. It will take place on Saturday **6th April** at St Mary's University Twickenham. Tickets from £25 available on Eventbrite.

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!

Easter Confessions: You would have noticed increased hours of confessions on the time-table. Do make use of them! If you would rather not confess to your parish priests, 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 – but please do go and prepare yourself for the great feast of Easter!

Summer Time begins (inconveniently after a long vigil) on Easter Sunday. Please remember to reset your clocks! We will not have a newsletter next week. For those of you travelling, we wish you a safe journey and much joy over the Easter Triduum!