

# 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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## Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B – 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2024)

This Week		
<b>Weekday Masses (this week)</b>	<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
<b>Mon-Fri:</b> Mass at 10 AM <i>Followed by Adoration</i> till 11 AM	Saturday Vigil at 6 PM Sunday at 9:30 & 11 AM	Saturday: 5:30 – 5:50 PM (and anytime, as possible, on request)

### *Good Shepherd Sunday*

The Lord reveals himself today as the Good Shepherd. Why is he good? Is it because he seems to be interested in you, since he is nice, helpful, kind or even generous? These are the epithets that can easily be associated with someone who is hired to do a job but that does not make him good. The reason the Gospel gives is far more profound. In as much as he can be all those things, he is good because he lays down his life for his sheep. This is what separates him from a hired man. Jesus knows us truly as we are and that is why he is willing to give his life for us. He knows we – you – are worth the sacrifice! And his sacrifice makes us truly free. Whom do you want to follow in your life today? A hired man – career, success, comfort, or anything else that promises us happiness, or do you want to receive this abundant life the one who is truly good promises us?

### *News & Events*

***Pray for Vocations*** With Good Shepherd Sunday we think of vocations to the priesthood. *Have you considered the possibility God might be calling you to the priesthood? Explore on a 'Come and See' day!* Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along to a 'Come & See' Vocations Morning on one of the following days:  
**Sat 1st June**, 10am-2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2DB. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register for one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter, at [robertaylor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:robertaylor@rcdow.org.uk) or speak to your priests!

***Get to know your parishoners*** We'll have another coffee after Mass 28<sup>th</sup> April. Do stay and chat with your fellow parishoners over coffee and cake. All cakes are wonderful and home-made cakes even more so. Shop bought or home baked goodies for Coffee Sunday gratefully received and devoured 😊

***Would you like to do something for God and for your fellow parishoners?*** *There are a number of ways to volunteer!* Do call in. Immediately, we need more **offertory collectors**. Big thanks to the few who continue to help with the collections. We need **helpers for the repository** (the small shop selling religious items usually open after Mass). If any of this is of interest to you, then please email us at [islington@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:islington@rcdow.org.uk)

***How Beauty draws us closer to God*** This year's Marian Lecture of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom will be delivered by Fr Patrick van der Vorst, a recently ordained priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, at St Patrick's Church, 21A Soho Square, W1D 4NR, on Friday 17th May, at 7.00pm. Having worked as a Director of Sotheby's Europe and launched the project [www.christian.art](http://www.christian.art), Fr Patrick van der Vorst is very much at home speaking on "How Beauty Draws us Closer to God". The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and refreshments will be available throughout the evening. For more information and to obtain tickets, see <https://ransom.churchsuite.com/events/5wzhhvlo>.

***A Concert in aid of Humanitarian Relief for the Holy Land*** will be given by the renowned pianist Bobby Chen on Saturday 27 April at 7.30pm at Farm Street Church, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, W1K 3AH. Tickets £25 concert only, £50 concert plus reception afterwards, are available from [www.eohsj.org.uk](http://www.eohsj.org.uk) for further information. All proceeds will be donated to the Humanitarian Relief Fund of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem through the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

***Rosary on Zoom*** The Rosary on Zoom is a virtual community from around the world taking turns throughout the day to pray the Rosary uninterrupted, every day. This initiative started at Easter 2020. Since then, people from the Oratory in London, Basílica de La Milagrosa in Madrid and Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Hong Kong have met on Zoom daily to pray the Rosary. Witnessing the graces and friendships flowing from the initiative, the community has expanded its reach. Go to <https://www.universalrosary.org/> to join. Guided meditation in English at 1.00pm, and Rosary at 1.30pm (UK time).

***Prayers for an end to Abortion*** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April marks the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of abortion becoming legal in Britain. While celebrated as a fundamental choice by a lot of people, the untold stories of pain of those who have aborted their children, those forced into such decisions by others, ironically removing all choice, the human trafficking it has enabled and not to mention the dead children themselves, all give pause for celebration. Good Counsel Network who do marvellous work with pregnant women, helping them keep their babies and providing for them, are calling for prayer and fasting to help end this unjust state and for a new era where life will be respected, provided for and celebrated. Please pray and fast as you can on this day. Those interested can find more information on [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

***Lourdes Pilgrimage*** Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage taking place from 19 to 26 July and led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> 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 30 April**.

***The Theological Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI*** A talk will be given by Fr Michael Lang for clergy about the theological legacy of Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday 21st May in St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory, at 4.30pm. Fr Lang is joint editor of the *The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Ratzinger*.

***Requiescat in Pace*** We note with sadness the passing of Barbara Price, who was parish secretary at St John's several years ago and might be known to some. Please pray also for Fr Michael Daley, Parish Priest of Holy Cross, Parsons Green (previously at Balls Pond Road), who died on 19th March.