

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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Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B – 5th May 2024)

This Week		
Weekday Masses (this week)	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon, Tue, Fri Mass 10am	Saturday Vigil 6pm	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm
Wed Mass moved to evening for Vigil of Ascension 6pm	Sunday 9:30, 11am	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Thurs Mass 10am The Ascension of the Lord	<i>All masses followed by Adoration</i> <i>Monday Bank Holiday – Church shut at 2pm</i>	

Have you ever been chosen for anything at school as a child or later on in life? I am certain all of us have. Usually what comes with being chosen is an expectation, and often, responsibility. It can also be a reward for having shown certain qualities and it does elevate our spirits to keep going and excel. The gospel tells us that we have all been chosen. Is it because we have all shown great spirit, endurance and spiritual skills? Quite the opposite. The Lord chooses what is not strong, in order to put to shame what is considered strong and important in worldly terms. If you find yourself weak, poor, sinful know that God has chosen you! Not for what you have done but for what he can do in and through you! What are we chosen for? Absolute greatness! To bear lasting fruit. To love as we have been loved! – Fr Jakub

Robert Holliday, one of our newly baptised, writes - “As my wife is a Catholic, it made sense that I should be a Catholic: that’s why I wanted to do the RCIA course. My wife comes from the Philippines, a Catholic country and her family are all Catholics. The RCIA is a really good way to learn about the Catholic faith. I’ve learned so much, especially over Holy Week and have enjoyed it meeting like-minded people. I was so pleased to have the chance to be baptised a Catholic. I would advise anyone who was thinking of being a Catholic to do the RCIA course.”

News & Events

Big thanks to those that baked cakes, stayed to chat and make this parish more vibrant last Sunday. Special thanks to our volunteers who make it happen! We would like to do this regularly going forward, mostly **the last Sunday of the month**. The next one will be **26th May**, after both the 9.30am **and** 11am Mass (sorry for missing out 9.30am Mass last week). Do mark this date and stay behind for a cuppa!

Ascension of the Lord, Holy Day of Obligation Mass is at 10am and the **Vigil Mass is on the 8th May at 6pm**. As he ascended, Jesus told us to “Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind.” ALL baptised Christians (not just clergy), have a mission to make God and his goodness known, to spread the awesome news that He died for us, and we are called to live with Him forever! There is no need to preach on the streets, but a gentle word to a secular friend might go a long way!

To our Benefactors A big thanks to all who give and have given even more generously after we made known the terrible situation of the Presbytery works and our finances. Fr Rajiv, unfortunately, still

doesn't know lots of people's names and has been unable to identify them, but you're very much mentioned in our thanksgiving to God! **Thank you also** for contributing to our recent collections. We raised **£461 for the Priests' Training Fund** and **£212 for Cafod's Sudan Appeal** last week.

Gift Aid If you made have a Gift Aid declaration to the parish but no longer pay tax on your income, please let us know emailing oscarignatius@rcdow.org.uk in order for us to update our records and not include you in the claim we are due to submit for the 2023/24 tax year.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated at 2pm Mass this Sunday and 2pm, 11th May. **Confirmation Mass** will be celebrated on 24th May at 7pm and Bishop Hudson will be the celebrant. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide these young people to do good and great things for God.

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers Thanks to all who volunteer for this important service. There will be a half day training/retreat day. Those that received an email from Neary, please complete the online survey to vote for your preferred day. For those that can't access email, there's a form pinned to the noticeboard, complete this and drop it off at the presbytery next door. Those who would like to become a Reader, please sign up for the training day. Those who would like to be Eucharistic ministers need to be interviewed by the priest first, so please do make your interest known to one of the priests.

May is the month of Mary. Gifts of flowers and candles for Our Blessed Mother Mary in The Lady Chapel are very welcome. Bishop Barron's **Word on Fire is raising a challenge to pray 50,000 rosaries** for the salvation of those who don't know Christ! You can sign up here:

<https://www.wordonfire.org/pray-rosary/> On a more local note, this is a good time to pick up your rosaries; especially those who promised a decade a week for the parish – why don't you consider praying a rosary a week for Our Lady's intentions for our parish?! And we will see miracles happen! Those who might need an extra push and will enjoy being part of a community, could sign up to the **Rosary on Zoom** at <https://www.universalrosary.org/>, a virtual community from around the world praying the Rosary uninterruptedly, every day. Join people from the London Oratory to the Madrid Basilica and the Cathedral in Hong Kong! Guided meditation in English at 1.00pm, and Rosary at 1.30pm (UK time).

Mary's Meals provides a daily meal at a child's school. The cost of doing this for a whole school year for the world's poorest children is just £19 a year! Because this is usually their only meal, they go to school to receive it and as a consequence, are educated whilst they're nourished - brilliant and simple! Throughout the month of May, the charity invites you to pray that its work continues to flourish and grow, and that more children will see their lives transformed by receiving nutritious school meals. <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Requiescat in Pace We have a number of funerals coming up in two weeks. May their souls and those of the faithful departed, RIP. **Brian Sculley** at 12pm, 20th May; **William Gillespie Glass** at 11am, 21st May and **Marie Madeleine Jones** at 10am, 22nd May; **Gilbert Jean Jules Vieri** at 10am, 28th May; **Robert Christopher Manning** at 10am 29th May.

Please pray for the sick especially for Sylvia D'Souza, a long-time, faithful parishioner of St John's who is unwell at this time and in hospital.

New Auxiliary Bishop for Diocese of Westminster Monsignor James Curry, currently Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of our Diocese, joining our other auxiliary bishops. His episcopal ordination will be at Westminster Cathedral on 18th June.

World Communications Day 12th May. You can get reliable Vatican and global Catholic News from www.vaticannews.va and www.zenit.org. Maybe spread a message of hope on social media this day! <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-01/pope-message-world-day-social-communications-ai.html>

World Fair Trade Day, 11th May. If you haven't been buying Fair Trade products, try adding 1 or 2 items. Perhaps promote it on social media and fundraise to support farmers and producers in developing countries. <https://wfto.com/campaigns/world-fair-trade-day-may/>

Michael's Catholic Grammar School are holding their open day on Tuesday June 25th for parents and girls who are interested in taking the entrance tests for St Michael's Catholic Grammar School. Their admissions policy can be found here [Admissions - St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Love one another, as I have loved you \(st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/admissions)

14th National Divine Mercy Pilgrimage will take place at the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, Chapel of Reconciliation, Houghton St Giles, Walsingham NR22 6AL on Saturday 1 June from 11am to 5pm. A coach will depart Westminster Cathedral at 7am. Please bring a packed lunch. Seats costing £27 can be reserved by contacting Emmanuel on 07721 362000 or Caroline on 07960 466377.