

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

Parish Office: islington@rcdow.org.uk, **Safeguarding Rep:** Frances Rooney (islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Pentecost Sunday (Year B – 19th May 2024)

This Week		
Weekday Masses (this week)	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon, Tue, Wed Funeral Mass see details below.	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 9:30, 11am	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm (and anytime, as possible, on request)
Thur, Fri 10am Mass followed by Adoration		

Testimony This week, we hear from Daniella Young, baptised at the Easter Vigil, who generously shares her path to the Catholic faith:

‘My partner is Catholic, and we'd decided to raise our daughter in the faith. Being an atheist, I'd initially held objections to this but after discussing it, it was clearly important to him and I could ultimately see no harm in it. After months of talking about it, the first time my family attended St John's together was the day after I lost my Dad to cancer. I'd been with him after his spirit had left him and I felt the need to be close to him again. Suddenly this connection to the church through my partner offered me space to do just that. We've been coming ever since. I remember hearing the Gloria for the first time and loving it. I taught my daughter the words and we sung together at church - it was such a beautiful moment. Already the beliefs I didn't even realise I'd held about faith were beginning to unravel. I began to want to understand more, then Fr Jakub brought up the RCIA course at the end of mass - I wasn't sure yet about being baptised but understanding Jesus' teachings seemed good for my family at the very least. I tentatively approached David, the RCIA catechist, feeling a little like a fraud if I'm honest, but was offered the biggest welcome. I'm so glad I did. I really didn't expect to join the church myself but, as it turns out, I've always believed in the message of Christ. The RCIA course offered me the opportunity to discover that faith was missing from my life. In what has been a very difficult year for my family, I've been blessed with support, community and love from St John's. As for the course itself; I highly recommend the RCIA - there's so much to know and understand about our faith and the practices within it that I think only an adult could fully appreciate.’

News & Events

Our regular coffee morning is on the last Sunday of the month which is next week, already! Coffee and cake will be served after the 9.30am and 11am Mass on Sunday 26th. Help make this parish vibrant by contributing cakes and biscuits and staying for a quick cuppa!

Requiescat in Pace Forthcoming funerals for May and June: **Brian Sculley** at 12pm, 20th May; **William Gillespie Glass** at 11am, 21st May; **Marie Madeleine Jones** at 10am 22nd May; **Gilbert Jean Jules Vieri** at 10am, 28th May; **Robert Christopher Manning** at 10am 29th May; **Marie Therese Hayden** at 11am 3rd June. *Please pray for the sick* especially for Sylvia D'Souza, a long-time, faithful parishioner of St John's.

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 and all those that received their First Holy Communion this month to do good and great things for God. All welcome.

Gift Aid It would greatly help our finances if you could gift aid your donations! Please do take a moment, especially on the contactless terminal to fill out your details (once will do!); thanks, if you've done so already! Equally, please email oscarignatius@rcdow.org.uk if you need to be removed from the Gift Aid scheme (if perhaps you no longer pay tax) and we can exclude you from our 2023/24 tax-year claims.

The Sunday Club would like to thank all those that generously contributed last week. They would love contributions of coffee this week. For those who might not know, it's open every Sunday from 3pm and welcomes visitors who may need support to the crypt for hot drinks and snacks. Please drop these off in the box labelled 'Sunday Club' in the church porch. Thank you!

Organ Concert Did you know that St John's is home to a world class organ?! Yes, the organ that you hear is stellar quality and that's why it attracts top performers from around the world. The first concert this year is on **Saturday 25th May at 7.30pm** and the organist is Professor Damin from USA. If you've never been to an organ concert before or you're a classical music aficionado, you're all very welcome. No need to book, there's a retiring collection. More details can be found here <https://islingtonchurchconcerts.org/john>

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers Thanks to all who volunteer for this important service. There will be a half day training/retreat day organised shortly. Those that received an email from Neary, please complete the online survey to vote for your preferred day. For those who cannot access email or are not already readers / communion ministers, please fill the survey on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ5DFBJ>. Please note that those who would like to be Eucharistic ministers need to be interviewed by one of the priests first, so please do also make you interest known to one of the priests.

Vocations Days: 'Come and See' Men interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along to a 'Come & See' Vocations Morning on Saturday 1st June, 10am-2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Harpenden AL5 2DB. A light lunch will be provided. To register attendance, contact: Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter, at robertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director of the Permanent Diaconate, at adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

SJOG Homes for Ukraine is a programme that offers a training and support programme for sponsors and individuals displaced by the war in Ukraine. The programme provides opportunities for integration into the community. SJOG invites you to join a gathering on **Wednesday, June 19, 5pm** at the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family, London Duke Street, (off Oxford Street), London W1K 5BQ. To register your interest, visit <https://forms.office.com/e/FFLaDWXm1y>

Two Diocesan Pilgrimages – Lourdes and Walsingham Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage to **Lourdes** led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open online or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Very limited spaces to travel by plane are left available. Our local, annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at **Walsingham** will take place this year on Saturday, 21st September. Further information will be available in due course but parishes are invited to note the date and to start making coach bookings.

National Missing Children's Day, Day of Prayer, 25th May. International Missing Children's Day, 25 May, is a day where people around the world commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still missing. The main purpose of International Missing Children's Day is to encourage everyone to think about children who remain missing and to spread a message of hope and prayer.

Pastoral Reflection on Gender The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a pastoral reflection on gender, explaining the teaching of the Church regarding this "a complex but essential pastoral task", and stress the importance of accompanying those struggling with gender dysphoria. The document, titled *Intricately woven by the Lord*, can be downloaded at www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-issue-pastoral-reflection-on-gender/