

# 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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## Twelfth Sunday (Year B – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024)

This Week		
<b>Weekday Masses (this week)</b> <b>Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri</b> 10am Mass followed by Adoration until 11am	<b>Sunday Masses</b> Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 9:30, 11am	<b>Confessions</b> Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm (and anytime, as possible, on request)
<b>Weds – Mass Cancelled</b> (Mass at Bl.Sacrament, 12:30 PM)		

This week's Gospel, we are given a powerful image, one we find in all the gospels. It was probably etched in the minds and hearts of the early disciples. It's hard to forget God's saving power when we are frightened out of our wits because our lives are in danger. The boat which is so fragile and tossed about in the storms of the sea is an image of the Church. It is fragile, but doesn't break; it seems unfit for the task, but it has Christ in it. And as long as Christ remains in the boat, the boat will weather the storm and reach the shore. We have already been rescued from drowning in the storms of this world, which can come so quickly on us, brothers and sisters. Sometimes we have to hang on for dear life, but even then we do so with confidence, knowing that as long as we are in the boat of the Church, we will be safe. This confidence is what we call faith. Having this faith means that we don't just survive the storm, but we are able to help those who are drowning in the waves and haul them on to the boat. Who in your families, among your friends, in your neighbourhood is being tossed around by the waves of life? Have you given them a Word of comfort, maybe offered a prayer or invited them to Church? It might be the lifeline they need today.

### *News & Events*

**Renewing Parish Life** A week ago, Fr Rajiv, Fr Jakub, Sister Miriam, Grace and some parishoners from both parishes attended the Catholic Parish Summit, a conference on renewing parish life. It was a moment of grace, a chance to listen to what God is doing at this time and hear from other parishes which were flourishing. There were great ideas on how to make the Word of God accessible to all in (and perhaps even outside) the Church! It means all of us working together – most importantly trusting God's Spirit! We are in a time of change everywhere, but it seems clear that God is doing new things. Let us call on the Spirit to renew each of us, our parish and, indeed, the face of the earth.

**Coffee Drive – invite Fr Rajiv for coffee!** (not simply because Fr Rajiv *loves* good coffee) but he would love to get to know you. The last year has kept us busy fire fighting but now, as we are slowly easing up on the administration front, it would be great to find some time for some coffees during the week with some of you. I can come around to visit your home if you would like or we could head to a local café. I'm hoping to meet all my parishioners in the next two years – let's make it happen!

**Donations – Thank you** We made an appeal for more donations given the state of our Presbytery a few months ago and some of you generously responded. Thank you! Fr Rajiv would love to say thanks to all in person – if he hasn't, please do introduce yourself!

**Requiescat in Pace** Forthcoming funerals for July: a funeral service for **Christopher Jack White** at 12.30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> July; **Margaret Walsh** at Blessed Sacrament on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10am.

**New Mass Times** Just a reminder that we will be trialling new mass times from mid-September. We will be adding an evening Mass at 6:30 PM. Our morning masses will be at 10 AM and 12 Noon. Hopefully this will not be too disruptive for people and will also be a favourable time for families with children.

**Are you able to give some time for Children's liturgy?** We would love to have a children's liturgy for the 10 AM mass but require the help of parents and others who can help animate this and help children connect to the gospel in a way suitable for them. If this is of interest, please let us know! We cannot do this without your help!

**Organ Concert** at St John's on our world class standard organ is at **7.30pm, Saturday 29 June**. Joshua Simoes, the seventh Pettman scholar at the London Oratory, will perform a recital on St John's beautiful historic organ. The concert will feature works by Charles Tournemire, Heinrich Schneidemann, Kenneth Leighton, Otto Olsson, Judith Weir and Thierry Escaich. This event is free with a retiring collection for the church, and all are welcome. You can read more about this and other concerts at: [islingtonchurchconcerts.org](http://islingtonchurchconcerts.org)

**Next coffee morning** will be next Sunday after the 9.30am and 11am Mass. Please do join us and make this a vibrant community. Donations of cake or anything edible are very welcome.

**Readers and Communion ministers.** On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July there will be a training session for **Eucharistic Ministers (2-4 PM)** and **Readers (4-6 PM)**. If you're interested in these important ministries, please get in touch! We're particularly short of communion ministers and readers for the Saturday Vigil 6pm Mass. New communion ministers need to be interviewed by the parish priest so come and chat with Fr Rajiv or Fr Jakob.

**The General Election 2024** The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) offers a guide to issues for the election [www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/) as do CAFOD together with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They provide information on a range of topics from a Catholic Christian perspective to help us ask key questions of local candidates and parties who need our votes. Please ensure you are registered to vote by 18 June and have suitable photo ID, which you will need this year for the first time. Our Church will be a polling station on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Room to rent for French male student September to December 2024?** Fr Martin Plunkett (who was asst. priest here sometime back) forwarded this request from a family, Fabrice and Prescilla Kun-Dubois who were parishioners at St John's in 2014. They have asked if anyone would be able to rent a room to a male French student for the months of September to December this year. We are passing this request as is, and unable to provide any kind of character references – but if you are interested we can pass on their details to you and you can make any enquiries yourself. Please contact the parish office.

**Ordination of Deacons, Priests and Bishops** On **Saturday 29 June at 10.30am** there will be the Ordination of three new Priests and on **Saturday 6 July at 10.30am** there will be the Ordination of Permanent Deacons. Let us continue praying for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, remembering especially those preparing to be ordained soon for and in our diocese. Parishoners are welcome to attend and no tickets are required.

**The Passage Garden Party** on **Friday 5 July from 6 to 9pm**, will be at College Garden at Westminster Abbey, with ticket prices starting at £60 to support the work of the Passage Charity with the homeless. Throughout the evening you will enjoy delicious food, unlimited alcoholic and soft drinks, entertainment and a variety of exciting activities including our much-anticipated raffle and silent auction. Purchase of tickets and further information can be found at <https://passage.org.uk/garden-party/>

***An exhibition at Westminster Cathedral, 'It's Iconic'*** Everyone is welcome to visit our Summer Exhibition dedicated to exploring **depictions of the Cross**. The exhibition is at Westminster Cathedral, the Cathedral's Guild Room (entrance via the spiral staircase next to the Gift Shop). Opening hours 10.30am to 4pm, Wednesday to Saturday. **Free Entrance**.

***Baroque music of the Jesuits from South America and China*** On **Friday 28th June** at 7.30pm, El Parnaso Hispano will give a concert at Farm Street Church in collaboration with the early music ensemble Divertissements Chinois, presenting a fascinating juxtaposition of 18th-century Jesuit music composed in South America and China, with the title "Silver and Silk". The concert will last around one hour and will be followed by a wine reception. Tickets £15 if purchased in advance online, or £20 on the door. For more information, see <https://bit.ly/silverNsilk>.

***Sanctuary Sunday, Sunday 23rd June 2024*** Churches across Scotland and worldwide are encouraged to celebrate Sanctuary Sunday (also called Refugee Sunday) today, 23 June 2024. This is the last Sunday during 'Refugee Week' and after 'World Refugee Day'. There are more displaced people in the world today than at any other point in history and the Bible is clear in its expression of God's loving concern for the stranger and refugee. Celebrating Sanctuary Sunday is an opportunity to express our prayers and solidarity, but also to raise awareness again of our Christian calling to welcome the stranger and do this openly and proudly. Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees have launched an excellent new resource 'Stand up for Sanctuary' filled with insightful reflections. You can access it at <https://www.sfar.org.uk/sanctuary-sunday-2024/>

***Passage Volunteer*** Do you feel strongly about helping the homeless? Do you want to make a difference? The Passage, a charity that helps the homeless, is looking for a Church Appeals Speaker Volunteer to visit churches across London on an ad-hoc basis and make appeals at Mass and speak with church groups. All speaking engagements will be organised in collaboration with our Church Appeals Coordinator and the church itself to ensure that talks fit easily in the speaker's calendar and are planned well in advance. The full description of the role is available at [Church Appeals Speaker Volunteer – The Passage](#). To find out more or to apply, please get in touch with Max Elgot at [max.elgot@passage.org.uk](mailto:max.elgot@passage.org.uk).