

# 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](mailto:islington@rcdow.org.uk), **Safeguarding Rep:** Frances Rooney ([islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk))

**14th Sunday (Year B – 7th July 2024)**

This Week		
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
<b>Mon-Fri</b> 10am Mass followed by Adoration until 11am	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 9:30, 11am	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm (and anytime, as possible, on request)

July is the month dedicated in the Church to the **Precious Blood of Christ**. The thought of blood might make us queasy; we rarely see blood spilt. But there are not many signs which are more profound or convey more completely the sacrificial love of Christ for us than the Blood. All ancient cultures understood the power of blood. It was necessary in all religious rituals, to establish peace between tribes, and without blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Heb 9:22). Blood in the body flows through every one of the trillion cells in us, providing for their very varied nutritional requirements. Where blood doesn't flow, cells die – there is death. Loss of blood is one of the most significant causes of death among events as varied as trauma, medical complications, disasters and violent incidents. Blood is literally, life. Blood in our body gives life, fights disease, cleanses our cells of toxins and nourishes us. It is part of why Jesus chose to pour out his blood to the full, and leave us this as the lasting sign of his love. His blood is what saves us, cleanses us, heals us and protects us from powers of darkness. This is the blood given to us in the Eucharist. In July, we will try to dedicate at least one if not two days a week to honouring the Precious Blood during the Week. Come to Mass during the week if you can. In the meantime, invoke the Precious Blood in prayer each day, perhaps with this simple prayer: ***Lord JESUS, thank you for your blood, your love for me. I take your precious blood and sprinkle it over myself and my family and claim total protection for my life and my family. Amen.***

## News & Events

**Fr Philip Thomas-Edwards** who kindly celebrated mass today is part of the Community of St Jean and currently based at St Patrick's, Soho. He also contributes to Fr Rajiv's blog of homilies at <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>.

**Readers and Communion ministers.** Today, 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. This refresher/training is mandatory for all ministers.

**Fr Joseph Tsoumate** We are hoping to welcome Fr Joseph Tsoumate from the Solomon Islands this coming week. Fr Joseph was due to stay with Fr Seamus for the summer but due to works at this presbytery, Fr Seamus asked if we could accommodate him. This has been very providential for us, as we are badly in need of summer cover. Praised be God. He will be celebrating Masses on some weeks, do make him feel welcome.

**New Mass Times in September** 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 10am 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 10am 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!

***Coffee Drive – meet Fr Rajiv for coffee!*** It would be great to find time for coffees during the week with some of you. I can come around to visit your home 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! You can mail me at [rajivmichael@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rajivmichael@rcdow.org.uk)

***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!

***Living Catholicism Today summer course, 1st – 4th August*** How do we interpret the sources of Christian morality? Why is the Church 'obsessed' about human sexuality? What is the significance of the virtues? Part of the CHC's "Faith & Reason" series, this course will explore morality and the Christian life, with some very gifted teachers. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason-series/>

***Spirit and Society – London Jesuit Center*** A course to introduce people to a range of concepts from political philosophy, the social sciences, and critical theory that help explain how we are shaped by our place in society, and explores their meaning for our spiritual lives and experience. Run over **5 Mondays starting 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 6:30 – 8 PM. More details at [www.londonjesuitcenter.org](http://www.londonjesuitcenter.org) or call 020 7529 4844**

***Summer Read*** Looking for a flight read on holiday or when you're lounging on a beach? Maybe try Tom Holland's *Dominion* – a brilliant work of popular history, on how Christianity has shaped the West; maybe Tom Wright's *Finding God in the Psalms*, a wonderful introduction to this treasure in our bibles. Maybe *The Way of the Pilgrim*, an enduring classic of spirituality from the East and so much more. Soak up the sun and grow in faith!

***Pilgrimage to Walsingham with Fr Ivano (Sts Peter & Paul)*** Fr Ivano will be accompanying a group from his Church (Amwell Street) for the **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham** on the **21<sup>st</sup> September**. There are only **34 seats** available at the moment as people have started booking in. If you're interested, please contact the office. The cost for the coach is **£35**. There are two pickup points : 6:30am pick up outside St Gabriel (Archway), and 6:45am at St Peter & St Paul, 5 Amwell Street, EC1R 1UL to depart for Walsingham at 7am.

***Get your boots on for Jubilee Year 2025*** The Year of Prayer (2024), in preparation for the Jubilee Year, is well on its way and attention is now turning to the Holy Year itself. During the year there will be opportunities to take part in **walking pilgrimages**. A new pilgrimage route has been devised between English Martyrs Church at Tower Hill and Westminster Cathedral, taking in places and saints connected with Catholic history in this country. There is also a Hertfordshire route from Hatfield to St Albans. These routes are not arduous, but they will enable pilgrims to appreciate the themes of the year and the importance of pilgrimage in our faith. There will be a 'Mass for Pilgrims' in Westminster Cathedral in November 2025, for those who, in one way or another, have completed one (or both) of these walking pilgrimages.

***Eucharistic Festival at Westminster Cathedral*** On Saturday 14th September, the Feast of the Holy Cross, Cardinal Nichols invites everyone to a Eucharistic Festival in the Cathedral, starting at 2pm and finishing around 4pm. The afternoon will include Adoration, Rosary, Confessions and a Procession of the Blessed

Sacrament, ending with a Pontifical Benediction. There will be an opportunity for everyone to venerate a relic of Bl Carlo Acutis, whose Canonisation has recently been announced.