

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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16th Sunday (Year B – 21st July 2024)

This Week		
Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon-Fri 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)

The younger generation often tells us to “take a chill pill,” and there’s nothing more infuriating! Ironically, “taking a chill pill” is something we’re extraordinarily bad at. Despite having 21st-century devices like emails, microwaves, and disposable nappies designed to save us time, we somehow don't end up with extra free time. Instead, we work faster, travel faster, eat faster, and take on more and more tasks. We feel compelled to fill every waking moment with an activity or job. Yet, sitting still in silence and solitude while the world rushes around us is very important.

I, like many of us, find it challenging to stay in silence for even 15 minutes without turning to my phone, listening to music, or checking my email. Yet, it is in this silence that the Lord wants to speak to us. Not necessarily about anything deeply profound or life-changing, but simply to spend a moment of quiet with the One who is our brother, father, friend, and God. The more time I ‘waste’ with the Lord, the more clarity and discernment I gain to face the rest of the day. The more I rest with Him, the more strength I have to tackle the reality in front of me.

Try it! The church is open every day. Pop in for a little prayer in silence—maybe your family and friends won't guess where you are, unlike the crowds of people in today’s Gospel, and you will experience a time of peace and quiet in your very own parish church.

News & Events

Fr Joseph Tsoumate We welcome Fr Joseph Tsoumate from the Solomon Islands who will be here until 9th August on a mini holiday. Please say hi to Fr Joseph.

Evening Mass on Sunday in September Just a reminder that we will be trialing new Mass times from **September 15th**. We will be adding an **evening Mass at 6:30 PM**. The regular Saturday Vigil Mass will still be celebrated at 6pm. Our morning Masses will be at 10am and 12 noon. We’re hoping that the extra evening Mass at 6.30pm will suit those busy during the daytime on Sunday.

Mass intentions and the new Mass times If you’ve already booked a Mass intention for September 15th onwards, please note that for a 9.30am Mass, your intention will be prayed for at the 10am Mass and if you booked an intention for the 11am Mass, this will be prayed for at the 12pm Mass. Those that have requested an intention for a 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass will still have their intention at the same Mass i.e. 6pm Saturday Mass.

Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Weddings Do browse through our website for information if you have any questions. We welcome emails and phonecalls but during August, the parish office is closed so response times will be slower. At least one priest will always be around and usually two.

Interested in becoming a Catholic? Please come and speak to one of our priest’s or check out the section on our website **‘Thinking of becoming Catholic?’**

For our teachers, teaching assistants and all the support staff from St John's and the Blessed Sacrament Schools, a huge Thank You! As the school term comes to an end, let's give prayer and thanks for all that they do. They work tirelessly, far beyond school hours at a vocation that can sometimes be very challenging. We pray especially for all the staff, pupils, volunteers, their families, current and former as the **Blessed Sacrament School** closes its doors permanently.

Celebrating Grandparents 26th July is the feast day of Mary's mum and dad - Saints Joachim and Ann. This date is a great opportunity to celebrate and pray for grandparents everywhere, deceased and living.

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!

Recycling School Uniforms There are a number of charities/charity shops which stock used school uniforms, and this is the best time of year to donate all that generic school uniform that will no longer fit in September but is still of good quality. For uniform with logos the best way to recycle is to ask the school if they will take uniform back and pass it on. Most schools do this now because there is a requirement to make uniform more affordable to everyone. Try <https://uniformforkids.org.uk/> to start!

Need a break? Going on a retreat is difficult to fit in but it is ideal for anyone who needs to find new energy and focus. Getting away from it all can bring a different perspective to your life and encourage you to make time for the things you love. The Retreat Handbook amongst other things contains information and programmes for over 230 Christian retreat centres in the UK and beyond. For more information visit www.retreats.org.uk

Organ Concert Series. Come and enjoy the range of sound from our organ which isn't always obvious from the hymns played at our Sunday Mass. The series continues with a free organ concert at St John's on **Saturday 27th July at 7.30pm**. The performer is the prizewinning organist, Charles Francis. There's a short biography <https://islingtonchurchconcerts.org/john/charles-francis>. Our very own Adrian Gunning, who plays here on Sunday, talks in a podcast **Pipes, Pedals and Stops** on Spotify/Apple Podcasts about the St John's organ series and interviews the performers.

Precious Blood of Christ July is the month dedicated in the Church to the Precious Blood of Christ. Each week, there will be one or two weekday Masses honouring the Precious Blood.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham This will take place on **Saturday 3rd August** and will be led by Bishop David Oakley of Northampton. If you can't make it in person, you can join online at Walsingham.org.uk/life-stream/. The need for prayer to support life has been great since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. It's now increasingly needed as the pressures to allow abortion up to birth grow along with a swelling campaign to introduce Assisted Suicide. A coach will leave from Westminster Cathedral, Ambrosden Avenue, SW1 at 7.30am. Tickets cost £25 for adults and d£15 for children and are available from Christopher on 01858 571 242. For further info, please visit www.profilepilgrimage.org

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.