

# 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)

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year B – 28th 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)

In today's Gospel, we encounter a scene that, at first glance, seems utterly absurd: five loaves of bread and two fish to feed five thousand people. The disciples' mention of this small amount of food might even seem like a sarcastic or light-hearted comment, highlighting the insufficiency of such a paltry offering. Indeed, under normal circumstances, it would be simply not enough. Yet, in this moment, Jesus performs a miracle that defies human logic and expectations- he takes the little that is offered and multiplies it abundantly, resulting in twelve baskets of leftovers.

If we are enlightened by the Word of God we might realise that we have more vices than virtues. We might find out that our love for our neighbour is very shortlived and not even that intense. In other words, we might come to a conclusion that **we are the bread and fish**- at the end of the day we really have very little to bring to the altar of God. And what's God's answer to that? Is he sarcastic, condescending, despising? Quite the opposite! He takes us as we are to transform us! He takes the little good we have to multiply it till it reaches perfection (number 12 for the Jews means fulfilment, completeness, God's power). He loves us as we are today, not as we would like to be one day in the future! He tells us today- I will feed you, I will take care of you, I will lead you to the green pastures where you will find repose. Do not be afraid. Enter my resurrection today!

## *News & Events*

***New Mass times from September 15<sup>th</sup>*** We hope this gives some of you more opportunity to celebrate Mass with an extra evening Mass on **Sunday at 6.30pm**. The regular Vigil Mass will still be celebrated at **Saturday 6pm**. Our morning Masses will be on **Sunday 10am and 12 noon**. For the Blessed Sacrament Church at Copenhagen Street, the new Mass times will be at 9am and the 11am stays. We've listened to those that expressed their views and it was tricky to decide but we think, and hope, that most of you will be happier with the result.

***Mass intentions and the new Mass times*** If you've already booked a Mass intention for September 15<sup>th</sup> 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. If this doesn't suit you then please let us know. 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.

***Summer break*** The parish office will be closed in August. This is the last newsletter until September. We wish all our parishoners a peaceful summer whether you're travelling away or at home. We welcome all visitors to our parish. Please come and say hello if you wish.

***Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Weddings*** Do browse through our website for information.

***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?**'

***Requiescat in Pace*** Michael Gaeton Senior's funeral Mass is at 11am Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

***Thank you*** To all the parishoners, volunteers, Adrian (our awesome organist) and everyone that has participated in the life of the parish this last year. Its been Fr Rajiv's first 11 months here and it's been crazy! He extends his appreciation to everybody and if the next year is less wild, he'd like to be able to meet parishoners individually. We'd also like to say thanks and goodbye to Oscar, our dedicated bookkeeper, who leaves us at the end of this month. He'll still be around, generously volunteering his time to help the parish run smoother.

***Bookkeeper at the parish?*** Would you like to help with recording the finances (and more) at this parish? Since Oscar is leaving, we're looking for a bookkeeper for this paid part time role. Please come and speak to one of the priest's or email us if you're interested.

***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!

***Interested in a Catholic Secondary School?*** Finchley Catholic High School open evening is Tuesday 10th September from 5–7.30pm with Headteacher talks at 5pm and 7pm. Parking available on site. They are based at Woodside Lane, Finchley, London, N12 8TA. More details here <https://www.finchleycatholic.org.uk/>

***Volunteer at a foodbank over the summer holidays?*** **Copenhagen Street Foodbank** extend their thanks to all those that have shown their love and support. If anyone (18 or older) can offer a helping hand on Thursday afternoons during the summer, please get in touch. We are based at N1 0SR, in the hall underneath The Blessed Sacrament Church along Copenhagen Street. Please email [copenhagenstreetfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:copenhagenstreetfoodbank@gmail.com) for details.

***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://uniformsforkids.org.uk/> to start!

***Need a break? Can't get away?*** Then how about tuning out for an hour, with a 'guided meditation with the imagination'? There's a Zoom session on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm. Take time to pause, step off the hamster wheel of life for an hour, and tune into what grounds and roots you, into a deeper and wider perspective. In that pause, you might just discover something of who you are, what you deeply desire, and what the world and these times are calling you into. There's a session each month but you don't need to go to each one. The link for the Zoom call is here <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/events/imagine-august-3>

***Need a break and CAN get away?*** 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](http://www.retreats.org.uk)