

# Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL, 0207 226 3277

**Parish priest:** Fr Rajiv Michael, **Asst Priest:** Fr Jakub Joszko, **Administrator (Mon/Thu/Fri):** Grace Wu

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**24th Sunday (Year B – 15<sup>th</sup> September 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 10am, 12 noon, 6.30pm	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm (and anytime, as possible, on request)

*Who do you say I am?* Today, in Mark's gospel we have a very powerful and while not always noticed, an intimate moment between Jesus and his disciples. Until now Jesus has been popular. He is the great miracle worker, healer and popular Rabbi. But as he turns towards Jerusalem and the suffering that awaits him, he is about to unveil something more of who he is, even as he puts this question to the closest of his disciples. It is a question we all ask each other, especially to our loved ones. Who am I, to you? We ask this question because we need the love of others, we are social beings. What is incredible is that God, who does not need anything, becomes man, to ask us the same question. *Who am I, to you? Do you love me truly?* When the veil lifts, the disciples don't see the hero they love, but one who suffers. And the question becomes, 'do you still love me?' This is a question being put to us today. When everything is dark, do we trust that God is with us, loves, takes care of us? Do we still love him?

## News & Events

**New Mass times starting this week!** Today, 15<sup>th</sup> September, we begin trialling our new Mass times. We hope this gives some of you more opportunity to celebrate Mass with an extra evening Mass on **Sunday at 6.30pm**. Our morning Masses on Sunday will move to **10am** and **12 noon**.

We're hoping the **Family Mass at 10 AM** will give families of school aged children, especially those who have stopped coming after covid, a more convenient entry back into the Church! It will be a great chance to meet other families with similar aged children. **All** parishioners are of course welcome to this and all the masses – young, old, with families or without families. **Please stay for coffee afterwards!**

Mass times at Blessed Sacrament Church will be at 9am and the 11am stays. Mass times are some of the most difficult decisions to make. We listened to those who expressed their views and we are aware it inconveniences some; we ask you to bear with us as we think, overall, this will be better for the parish. We will however review this later in the year to see if things can be made better.

**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.

**'I did not come with words but a demonstration of the Spirit's power'** said St Paul when he visited Corinth. If you've ever wondered whether Christianity is relevant in today's world, just not sure what to believe or even why you're really Christian, **the Alpha Course** starting at Bl.Sacrament Church will be a great experience. Come, and you'll be able to experience the Spirit's power which Paul speaks of, for yourself and the truth of the gospel! **Alpha starts on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** and runs weekly until December 4<sup>th</sup> (but not 30<sup>th</sup> October). There's great food, followed by a video and discussion in small, friendly groups. Everyone is welcome – all faiths and

none. **Bring your friends!** It's a great way to meet new people in a friendly space at 157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR. For more info on what Alpha's about, <https://alpha.org.about>

**Thinking of becoming Catholic?** The **RCIA course** is for adults that are interested in becoming Catholics. Through a process of teaching, journeying with others and prayer, you'll be prepared for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation; it is also for Catholics who have been baptised but not Confirmed. **We start 1<sup>st</sup> October.** Email us and arrange to chat with one of the priests and complete a form which you can find on the website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/sacramental-prep/rcia/> or in the church porch.

**First Holy Communion** If you have a child that is in year 3 or above then register for First Holy Communion by completing a form here <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/sacramental-prep/communion/> All forms can also be found in the porch. The course will start October/November so there's plenty of time to register. For more information (course length, timings, where, price), please head to the web address above.

**Isabelle Demers, a world class organist** is performing at St John's on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. She is Professor of Organ at Montreal University, who has played recitals worldwide and of course at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

**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 you're good working with children, and this is of interest, please let us know. Volunteers working with children are required by law to be DBS checked and sometimes this process can take a bit of time, so please let us know your interest, and we can do the required admin process.

**Fr John Hemer** Thanks for your welcome to Fr John who celebrated masses last week at St John's! We're very privileged to have Fr John resident at our presbytery. Fr John is a lecturer in Scripture at Allen Hall, where he helps form future priests. He'll be celebrating Masses at different times at St John's and Bl.Sacrament.

**Marriage Course at St John's** This course is an opportunity to explore the depths and riches of Christian marriage, which is both similar to and distinct from any other union. We will discuss living out this vocational calling with Christ at its centre, the beauty and meaning of sex within marriage, communication skills, forgiveness and love, the grace given in sacraments and more. The course will take place in the crypt of the church at 39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL.



**There are seven sessions on the following days:** THURSDAY, 19 September at 8:15 PM / FRIDAY, 20 September at 8:15 PM / FRIDAY, 27 September at 8:15 PM / FRIDAY, 4 October at 8:15 PM / FRIDAY, 11 October at 8:15 PM / FRIDAY, 18 October at 8:15 PM / SATURDAY, 19 October –a retreat day ending with a social. Please speak to Fr Jakub or contact the office if you wish to participate.

**The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Open Evening for Year 7 (First Form pupils).** These events are designed for parents and prospective pupils to attend. **Tuesday 17th September 2024** will be the last one. The Headmaster will speak at **4.30pm** and **6.00pm**. You do not need to book for our Open Evenings. Full details are available on our website <https://www.cvms.co.uk/Admissions/>

**St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club** Do you enjoy walking in the countryside? The club has been leading weekly walks for like minded people since they were formed in 1930. Walks take place in the South East of England and are accessible by public transport. Membership is open to all walkers who are happy to respect the Catholic ethos. Come and make new friends, enjoy fresh air and get fit at the same time! For further details please visit [www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com](http://www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com) or email [stfrancisramblers@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisramblers@gmail.com)

***God of Compassion: The Psalms in Conversation, Thursday 19th September from 6-8pm*** at the London Jesuit Centre, W1K 3AH. The Psalms offer contrasting pictures of God's compassion – how can a Jewish perspective on this shared scripture enrich our understanding of God? With an introduction from Rev Dr Nathan Eddy (Co-Director of the CCJ), Rabbi Jonathan Magonet (Emeritus Professor of Bible at Leo Baeck College) will use Psalms 103 & 145 to explore a Jewish understanding of a compassionate God. Tickets are free, and the talk will be followed by a Q&A and a drinks reception. Please reserve your ticket here: <https://god-of-compassion-psalms-event.eventbrite.co.uk>

***Seeds of Hope, Evangelisation Day*** Everyone who is interested in evangelisation is welcome to attend Seeds of Hope event on **Saturday 28 September**, 10.30am–3.30pm at Holy Apostles Church and Hall, Pimlico. The event is free of charge but booking is required. To book or to find out more please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seeds-of-hope-evangelisation-day>

***The London Jesuit Centre***, 114 Mount Street, W1K, is a home of adult Christian formation which runs events, courses and retreats, particularly on the themes of social and environmental justice, spirituality and theology, and it is a centre for individual spiritual direction and spiritual accompaniment. For more information, please go to: <https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/whats-on/our-calendar>

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***Catholic Listeners***: a confidential telephone helpline service. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, it has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, the helpline is staffed by a professional team of volunteers who are trained to signpost callers to other services and agencies. Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. Operating three days a week from 4pm-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free on 0800 448 0704 For further information please email us at [Catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.CatholicListeners.com](http://www.CatholicListeners.com). Catholic Listeners are here to listen.