

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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28th Sunday (Year B – 13th October 2024)

This Week		
Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon-Fri 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)

Now and at the hour of our Death

Death is once again front and center of us as parliament approaches another round of voting on assisted suicide. Christians desire a happy death as much as the next person, which is neither sudden or unforeseen; but a happy death for the Christian, is really a "holy death", which is to face death prepared: amends made, sins confessed, and ready to meet their Lord and Saviour, with their loved ones and saints, interceding for them at their appointed hour. But such a death is only possible if one is responding to a call from the One who has vivified their lives all along. Absent that, one can only want to be taken unawares or put to sleep "mercifully," then annihilated with the earth. The unhappy deaths we are witnessing today represent not first a moral crisis, but a crisis of meaning. See <https://humanumreview.com/articles/how-to-die-well> for a very helpful reflection on this issue. This week, the Cardinal has written to the diocese on this bill which will be read out during Mass.

News & Events

Alpha is starting! Are you coming? Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. There is no judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think. It's free and there's complimentary food too! **Where?** Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR
When? Starts Wednesday 16th October from 7pm to 8.30pm <https://alpha.org.about>

Wednesday 10am Mass for St John the Evangelist Primary School We welcome the children from the school and all parishoners, parents, carers, relatives and friends too.

Feast of St Edward the Confessor Sunday is the feast of St Edward, king of England shortly before the Norman Conquest. He was known for his piety and care for the poor. He is the founder of Westminster Abbey, where he was buried (and remains), behind the High Altar in 1268. Uniqely, his feast is a 'solemnity' only at Westminster Cathedral; they will have readings for his feast, while we have our readings for the 28th Sunday.

October is the Month of the Rosary. If you're not praying the rosary daily, perhaps aim for a decade daily - that's 13 prayers in total (1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, 1 Glory Be, 1 O My Jesus). The Rosary is a powerful prayer, a weapon of spiritual warfare. Raise your needs, that of your family and your parish to Jesus and Mary by taking up this prayer. There's lots of online resources to help you get started and YouTube channels to pray live with others from all over the world. It's very simple, meditative, but best of all, it's honouring our Blessed Mother Mary and contemplating Jesus's life.

Parents of First Holy Communion children are meeting Fr Jakub on **Thursday 17th at 7pm.** The meeting will last about an hour and will be in the church crypt (enter the church through the doors on the right). It's

compulsory that all parents attend and it's for parents only so your children get a free evening with their grandparents or nannies!

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.

Secondary Schools –

Signing of Forms. Please contact the parish office by email with the Masses you normally attend and the frequency per month. We will then email out the relevant forms on a case by case basis.

Open Days All Saints Catholic High School near Ladbroke Grove are holding open mornings every Wednesday and Friday until the end of half term. More info here www.allsaintschs.co.uk and there are flyers in the church porch.

Sixth form open evening for **Sacred Heart High School** in Hammersmith warmly invite girls in Year 11 and their families to learn more about their unique and high-achieving Sixth Form on **Wednesday 16th October**, from 4pm to 6pm. There will be a presentation at 5:20pm.

Islington's Vue cinema, Angel Centre is showing a powerful Christian film '**Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot**' (12A) today, **Sunday, at 5.30pm** and on Tuesday **15th October at 7pm**. It is a wonderfully inspiring and true story of 22 families who chose to adopt children in Possum Trot, a small community in Texas, following concern from a local pastor's wife that children should not be left to languish in the care system. Tickets are just £9.99. Reviews are excellent. For details, the trailer and to book visit: soundofhopemovie.co.uk

Do you have a spare USB plug adapter? Theft is one of the things we have to deal with, as we keep the church open - our USB plugs for the contactless machines seem particularly popular at the moment! We've already replaced four plug adapters - if you have a spare lying around, do consider dropping them at ours! Thank you!

Today is Prisoners' Sunday It's an opportunity to consider how we, as individuals, as a Church, and as communities, are serving our those affected by imprisonment. Our prisons are in crisis: there are record numbers of people behind bars, with reports of violence and self-harm. At the same time, too many people are released, maybe even too quickly, and without any home, job or family. The ripple effects of this crisis are felt well beyond the prison walls, particularly of the families of prisoners. *Pact* is a Catholic charity that works with prisoners and those affected by this. Visit www.prisonadvice.org.uk if this issue is of interest to you.

Are you Catholic? Like History? Enjoy walking at a leisurely pace? Then check out Catholic History Walks. Their next walk is on **Wednesday October 16th** meeting at the steps of Westminster Cathedral (nearest tube Victoria) at 6.30pm (after 5.30pm Mass). The Walk starts at Westminster Cathedral and will take in St James Park, the Chapel Royal, Horseguards, Whitehall, and Westminster Abbey. You can of course leave at any time. The cost is £5, concessions available. For booking and more info, <https://www.catholichistorywalks.com/>

'Schola Gregoriana' (who boast famous Patrons) is a group dedicated to the promotion of Gregorian Chant, the great music of the Church. They're holding a Chant Day at the beautiful Dominican Rosary Shrine at Haverstock Hill NW5 on Saturday 2 November 2024, culminating in a Requiem Mass for All Souls and those associated with the Schola at 2.30pm. If you would like to receive coaching in the Missa pro Defunctis and general singing of the chant, please arrive by 10.55am. Email info@scholagregoriana.org

Requiescat in pace The funeral Mass for Margaret Fennelly will be taking place on **28th October at 1pm**.