

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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30th Sunday (Year B – 27th October 2024)

This Week

Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon 10am, 1pm Funeral Mass	Saturday Vigil 6pm	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm
Tue - Thur 10am	Sunday 10am, 12 noon, 6.30pm	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Fri 10am, 6pm Mass (All Saints)		
Saturday (All Souls) 10 AM Mass	<i>Weekdays Adoration following Mass until 11 am</i>	

Solemnity of All Saints

Who are the people we venerate as saints? We often tend to think of these like spiritual superheroes, the likes of whom are quite disconnected from ourselves and our daily lives. Following in their footsteps can feel as daunting as mastering rocket science. And we tend to 'switch off' and never look closer. But the saints were real people, like us, who faced struggles, crises and frustrations; but also encountered a God who was real, whose love was real and able to save them. In their lives we see the evidence that Christianity is true and is available for everyone. St John Paul II, canonised more saints than all his predecessors combined for precisely this reason: that we need lived examples of holiness in everyday life. The saints show that holiness is wholeness, the gospel is good news, and God's love makes a difference on Monday morning. St Paul even calls *all* the baptised, far from evidential holiness, 'saints'. We are saints in our baptism because this is our call and joy. And the canonised saints show us the way forward. They didn't become saints overnight. Much like a concert pianist who starts with simple scales, following God's path for discipleship begins with taking small, manageable steps. Come to the Solemnity of All Saints where we venerate the canonised and all those other saints who are known only to their loved ones and God. Mass will be celebrated at St John's on **1st November at 10am and 6pm** and at the Blessed Sacrament Church (N1 0SR) at 12.30pm

News & Events

Alpha has started! It's not too late, do come along. Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious about life and faith. There is no judgement or pressure. Come along, see what you think. We start with a meal, followed by a short video and a participant-led discussion. **Where?** Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR **When?** Wednesdays 7pm to 8.30pm <https://alpha.org.about> (Next meeting Nov 6th, after half-term).



Requiescat in pace The funeral Mass for Margaret Rita Fennelly will be taking place on **28th October at 1pm** (the morning mass will take place as usual).

November is the Month of the Holy Souls when we will offer regular Requiem Masses (masses for the dead). These masses are for the holy souls suffering in Purgatory, that they might be quickly healed and taken up into the blessed vision of God. You are welcome to take a form from the back of church on which to write the names of your own beloved deceased; please return them through the presbytery letterbox in the envelope also available at the back of the church, along with a suitable offering. The lists will be assembled in a book, which will be placed near the main altar throughout the month of November from Saturday 2nd November, All Souls' Day. **All Souls, 2nd November** Commemoration Of All the Faithful Departed. We honour the memory of all who have died in the peace of Christ. We give thanks for their lives and what they shared with us and others, and we pray for the day we will be reunited. We also remember those we never knew, those who gave their lives

for our freedom, and those who died alone with no one to mourn or pray for them. In remembering the loved, they remain forever close to our hearts.

Confirmation course 2024/2025. If you're between the ages of 14 to 16 at the time of enrolment, we would like to warmly welcome you to join our Confirmation Programme 2024/2025. The course will start January 2025 and the confirmation date will be in May or June (tbc with the Bishop!). If you wish to be enrolled, please complete a Confirmation Application Form that you can find at the back of the Church and on our website, and drop it through the letterbox of the Parish Office or email it to us. More info and registration form here <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/sacramental-prep/confirmation/>

The Marriage Course at St John's was successfully completed by 18 couples under the guidance of Fr Jakub and 4 couples that generously volunteered their time to help. We received good feedback from them. It finished with a retreat followed by plenty of food and even more fun. If you're thinking about marriage in the Catholic Church, preparation is necessary. Look out for the next one!

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.

Year of Jubilee 2025 The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, which occurs every 25 years. "Pilgrims of Hope" is the theme chosen for a world suffering the impacts of war, disease, and climate crisis. It is a call to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. More information can be found here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>. There'll be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware in 2025 and a date and full details will follow as soon as possible. There are also several long and shorter pilgrimages being planned by different agencies and parishes which we will advertise soon – more information can be found online.

Did you know that St John's organ is in big demand for recordings and concerts? It is not easy to find the church closed some days, but we do so occasionally to accommodate recording requests, using our famous organ. 2 weeks ago, the organist from St Paul's Cathedral (James Orford) along with the London Choral Sinfonia recorded an organ concerto by Malcolm Arnold. The dining room served as a recording studio.



Sunday 12pm Sung Mass We need more singers to join the choir on Sundays. If you enjoy singing, please do come and participate. Just introduce yourself to our organist, Adrian Gunning and join in. The existing choir members will give you all the support you need. (Come about 10 mins before Mass, through the side door at the back of the church and up the stairs to the organ loft).