

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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31st Sunday (Year B – 3rd November 2024)

This Week

| Weekday Masses | Sunday Masses | Confessions |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Mon - Fri 10am | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm |
| Weekdays Adoration following Mass until 11am | Sunday 10am, 12 noon, 6.30pm | (and anytime, as possible, on request) |

The Faithful Departed

November is the Month of the Holy Souls, when we pray for the holy souls suffering in Purgatory, that they might be quickly healed and taken up into the blessed vision of God. Purgatory is not something we think of, today. People often don't know what happens when we die; they harbour a vague hope that their loved ones go somewhere 'up there'. But Christ has shown us in the gospels clearly, what we face on our death. There is the final judgment which will reveal the meaning of our life to us. If our life has been lived out in a consistent refusal and a stubborn rebellion towards the love of God, we will not go to heaven. Those who have on the other hand, been open to God's grace, tried to seek him and refused their pride, however imperfectly, can be assured that the grace of God has worked all the harder to save them. But such weak, imperfect love cannot stand or receive, the burning furnace of love which is God, which is what heaven is. The wounded soul has to be prepared, cleansed, healed, purged of all its sinful attachments in the same burning fire of God's love, which is purgatory. This is not pleasant, but it is a time of healing, much like a hospital. All of us have to go through purgatory. The only option is whether we experience our purgatory here on earth or after our death. The saints are those who did their purgatory on earth. Having found that God loved them, they sought him all the more and found that nothing on earth compared to his love. Having lived already for him who loved them, they found not a judge, but their loving Saviour. No guilt in life, no fear in death. Jesus, was their destiny.

News & Events

Requiem Masses 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 are assembled in a book, placed near the main altar throughout the month of November and prayed for this month.

Remembrance Sunday is on 10th November. The 12 Noon Mass will be a Solemn Requiem Mass for the War Dead.

Indulgences for Souls of the Faithful Departed. Indulgences, something forgotten today, are the alms of the spirit, like spiritual medicine, which is drawn from the merits of Christ, for the souls suffering in purgatory. It is an aid to heal them quickly and help them reach heaven. On All Souls' Day a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, is granted to those who visit a church and recite the Our Father and the Creed. Every day from **1st to 8th November** inclusive, a 'plenary' indulgence, for the Holy Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The usual conditions for indulgences apply - one plenary indulgence can be granted each day; it's necessary to be in the state of grace, i.e., at the least, free from mortal sin. Holy Communion must be received that day; prayers (one Our Father and one Hail Mary) for the intentions of the Pope on each day the indulgence is sought; confession needs to be made within a week of completion of the prescribed spiritual work – one confession made during the week with the intention of gaining all the indulgences is sufficient.

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/>

Coffee morning The next coffee morning is after next **Sunday's 10am Mass on 10th November**. We always invite all parishoners to stay even for just a moment and we'd really like to see parishoners take us up on this offer! There'll be cakes, biscuits, sweets, tea and coffee.

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.

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).

Commissioning for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will take place at all Sunday Masses (including the Vigils) over the weekend of **November 10th and 17th**. After the Homily, individuals that hold these ministries are called forward where they are formally recognised and granted the authority to serve.

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).



Luce and friends, Jubilee 2025 By now, some of you might have come across Luce, the mascot for the 2025 Jubilee year. The Jubilee occurs every 25 years. The notion of Jubilee comes straight from the Scriptures. It is a time of incredible grace. 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 are several long and shorter pilgrimages being planned by different agencies and parishes which we will advertise soon – more information can be found online. In the meantime, here's Luce and friends, themselves pilgrims, to accompany us!



Dilexit Nos ('He Loved Us') On 24th October, Pope Francis released his fourth encyclical, Dilexit Nos on the Human and Divine Heart of Jesus. Pope Francis calls for a return to the Heart of our Saviour. This is needed more than ever at this time of war and social and economic imbalance, which undermine human dignity. Hence, the Holy Father calls for a change of perspective, urging humanity to rediscover what is most essential, the heart.