

# Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington

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

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## 32nd Sunday (Year B – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

### This Week

Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
<b>Mon - Fri</b> 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)

### *Remembrance Sunday*

This Sunday, we remember and give thanks for all the people who have died in armed conflict throughout our world. We give thanks for their courage and for their willingness to sacrifice themselves for the freedom of others. But more importantly we pray for them. We keep it on the nearest Sunday to November 11th because that's the day World War 1 finished, but it's providential since November is the month dedicated to praying for the holy souls in purgatory. Yes, we still believe in purgatory. In the first chapter of Genesis we read that God made us in his image. That image is tarnished through sin, but God wants us all to bear that image fully once again. Most people, die, perhaps with this image still tarnished, but God has given us a chance, to undergo the purification needed after death, to make us fully whom he intended us to be. That's purgatory and we can help those souls who languish there with our prayers. So let's remember to pray for our deceased loved ones - Fr JH.

### *News & Events*

**Requiem Masses** You are welcome to take a form from the back of church and write the names of your deceased loved ones; please return them through the presbytery letterbox in the envelope also available at the back, 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. The 12 Noon Mass today will be a Solemn Requiem Mass for the War Dead. **Requiescat in pace.** Funeral Mass for John Anthony McGowan, 10am, **Friday 22nd November.**

**Coffee morning** We'll have coffee after today's Family **10am Mass.** Do stay, even for just a moment and get to know your fellow parishioners. Thanks for all who make this happen - there'll be homemade cakes and biscuits.

**Pictures needed!** Would you like to appear on our new website? If you have pictures of Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or weddings and are happy to share them for our website then please do email them to us. We might not be able to use all of them, but will let you know when they go up! Digital copies only please!

**Christmas lunch – call for helpers!** On Christmas Day this year we are holding an open Christmas lunch for anyone who might be alone or unable to afford or cook a meal or simply fancies some company. This is an old tradition of St John's, which we're really happy to revive. It will be held in St John's school. There are a few ways you can get involved. Volunteering at the event. **We need volunteers on December 24th and 25th** to help prep ingredients, set up & decorate the space, help with cooking and host on the day. Sign up sheets for the various volunteering roles as well as what would be expected of you, will be at the back of the church from December 1st. If you're unable to volunteer, perhaps you can gift a raffle prize or a financial donation – or know someone who might want to come for the lunch! More details of this event to come.

**Indulgences for Souls of the Faithful Departed.** Indulgences, something forgotten today, are the alms of the spirit. They are like spiritual medicine, 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/>

**Christmas Bazaar at Blessed Sacrament Church, N1 0SR on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 6pm.** There'll be 'Candy Land', adult and children's tombolas, raffle, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand goods for sale, face painting, a visit from Santa and a whole lot more. All welcome.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**. After the Homily, individuals that hold these ministries are called forward where they are formally recognised and granted the authority to serve.

**Deanery Mass at St Peter and St Paul, Clerkenwell** For the repose of the souls of priests and religious who served in our parishes. On **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm**. This is meant to be a deanery mass and so there will be no mass at St John's that morning. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**Red Wednesday supporting our persecuted brothers and sisters** On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**, Red Wednesday for persecuted Christians will be held at the Oratory. The church will be lit up in red. Organised by ACN (Aid to the Church in Need), the event starts at 6.30pm with mass celebrated by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and bishop Linus Neli of Imphal, India. Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali will present ACN's Courage to be Christian Award. More info and to express your interest <https://acnuk.org/event/redwednesday-2024/>

**Assisted suicide vote before Christmas** The most vulnerable in our society are at risk. MPs will vote on whether to introduce an extreme assisted suicide law on 29th November. Please contact your MP and ask them to vote NO – it only takes 30 seconds here [www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow) On Sunday 24th November from 3pm to 5pm, there will be a panel discussion with Q&A at Farm Street Church, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH, with experts in the field who have serious concerns about a possible change in the law. The event will be live-streamed at [www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream).

**Bethlehem Baubles** Christmas is still way off, but some of you may be getting ready for Christmas. 'Bethlehem Baubles' are traditional glass decorations, handmade using recycled glass in Bethlehem. In collaboration with Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans, the baubles are "Handblown by Muslims – Painted by Christians – Shipped by Israel". Sales generated from this project will be used to train up a new generation of painters and glass blowers, helping them to build a future in Palestine. Christmas baubles are £20 each. Visit <https://www.bethlehembaubles.com>.