

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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33rd Sunday (Year B – 17th November 2024)

This Week

Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon see below	Saturday Vigil 6pm	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm
Tues – Thur 10am, followed by Adoration until 11am	Sunday 10am, 12 noon, 6.30pm	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Fri 10am funeral Mass		

The destruction of the Jerusalem Temple happened exactly as Christ prophesied it, in the same generation. The Romans destroyed it when they put an end to a Jewish insurrection, about forty years after Jesus' death and resurrection in 70 AD. That's a definitive date, one aspect of Jesus' answer to the Sanhedrin in the gospel. What about the day of judgment? 'As for that day or hour, nobody knows it' and indeed neither do we know the time and day of our own death. This can be pretty daunting! However, Christ offers us a key to understand or rather to enter into the mystery and uncertainty of the final days. 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.' What are the words of Christ? Peter in another place spells it out for us: "Lord (...) you have the words of eternal life' and indeed Christ confirms it by saying "The words I speak to you are spirit and life.' Eternal life therefore, that is existence over which death and fear has no dominion flows from what Christ reveals to us through his words and through his life. This realisation generates faith in me and prepares me for his coming in such a way that I do not live in constant worry of what unfortunate event might happen tomorrow. Instead he enables me to be looking forward to being with him in eternity and, even more, every day of my life. Even today.

News & Events

No Monday Mass - Mass at St Peter & St Paul, 12:30pm, Clerkenwell. The Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of the priests and religious who served in our parishes. This is a deanery Mass so there will be no Mass at St John's that morning. Parishoners are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

Requiescat in pace. Funeral Mass for John Anthony McGowan, 10am, **Friday 22nd November**; Mary Lavery, 12pm, **Tuesday 26th November**.

Thank you to all the parishoners that stayed for a chat at last week's coffee morning and special appreciation goes to those that helped by offering their time to serve or to bake. You all help to create the community we want to be!

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're published. Digital copies only please.

Planned Giving Drive - thanks for your attention! We know it's not exciting, but please do take the time to ponder on the leaflet distributed. There'll be a short talk at the end of Mass today and for the following 2 weeks.

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.

Assisted suicide vote before Christmas It is important we take part in this and do our part to stop this. 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. Lord David Alton has also sent across postcards which you can easily send to your MP, in our case, Emily Thornberry. The number of cards they receive matter. Please do post one.

On Sunday **24th November** from 3pm to 5pm, there **will be a panel discussion with Q&A** at Farm Street Church, with experts in the field. The event will be live-streamed at www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream.

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

Christmas Bazaar at Blessed Sacrament Church, N1 0SR on Saturday, November 30th from 2pm to 6pm. There'll be 'Candy Land', adult and children's tombolas, raffle, 2nd 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. **November 22nd** is the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of Music, St Cecilia's. We're sure she'd bestow special graces onto the choir and new singers.

Red Wednesday supporting our persecuted brothers and sisters On **Wednesday 20th 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/>

Feast of the Presentation of Mary is on 21st November This little known feast, comes to us from the Tradition but is very beautiful and significant. Mary's parents, Anna and Joachim, offered Mary to serve God in the Temple when she was three years old. Mary's dedication of her life to God will be fulfilled in the incarnation. And it is a time when religious brothers and nuns renew their vows.

Combatting loneliness for older people in the winter months, Love My Neighbour Campaign 2024 -Faith in Later Life is inviting us all to join 'Love My Neighbour', a winter loneliness campaign, seeking to combat the devastation that loneliness among older people can cause in this season. Love My Neighbour is a simple but potentially lifesaving and lifegiving campaign to remind and encourage us all to connect with our older neighbours this winter. To learn more visit www.faithinlaterlife.org/love-my-neighbour/

Christianity meets the East Join Fr Roger Dawson SJ for this retreat from **21st November** at Theodore House, Stonyhurst in Lancashire, exploring the human condition with practices common to mindfulness and to Christian contemplative prayer. Details at <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events>

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>.