

# 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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**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year B – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024)**

## This Week

Weekday Masses	Sunday Masses	Confessions
<b>Mon, Wed – Fri</b> 10am, 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)
<b>Tues</b> 12 noon funeral Mass, details below		

**W**hat is truth? The question remains as popular (and perhaps more controversial) today, from academic circles to the market place as it did in Jesus' time. As Jesus, truth in person (Jn 14:6), stands before him, Pilate asks him the question that has echoed through all history: What is truth?, before walking away. Is truth something that can be proven, ascertained through research and collecting facts? *Did she actually say that? Did he really do this?* We often think that if we have enough information on anything, we will know the truth. But it's in this very age, of social media, AI and information access that has never before been possible, that we remain more confused than ever as to what to believe, whom to believe. Yet, our hearts, as our minds, long for truth. The head can seek information, but the heart longs for what is real. We want to touch what endures, to see everything as they are. We want to know the truth about ourselves, who we are and why we are here. That our lives are valuable, that we are not products of chance. It is the one whom Pilate ironically, but without realising, truly, proclaims *Behold the Man!* we see what man is: we see ourselves. It is in his Image we were created. In Christ, we see how we are valued, because it is for us, that this Love of God descended from heaven. If we remain before him and not turn away, we will see the truth of our life. And in him, our hearts will be satisfied.

## News & Events

**Requiescat in pace.** Funeral Mass for Mary Lavery, 12 noon, **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.**

'May all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit' Pope Francis

**BEWARE: Scam emails targeting parishioners** There is news that scammers are targeting parishioners, impersonating their priests. The scam emails typically request the parishoner to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts. Fr Rajiv and Fr Jakub would never ask you to do this by email. If you receive such an email supposedly from one of the priests, please don't respond and contact the parish office immediately. Thank you.

**Planned Giving Drive Week 2** - Please do read the booklet even if it isn't the most scintillating of reads ever. There'll be a short talk at the end the Mass and a chance to sign up next week. Thanks for your attention!

**Assisted suicide vote before Christmas** It is important we take part in this and do what we can 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](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow). There are postcards at the back of the church 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](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream).

**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.

**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

**The New Lectionary**, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing. The process began in 2011. The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use that is more proclaimable and appropriately inclusive. Some parishes will be moving to the new lectionary next week, Sunday 1st December, to coincide with the new liturgical year. At St John's, we will be introducing this change later in 2025.

**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.

**Christmas and New Year Mass times** are on our website. We will be printing the Mass times ready for next weekend and notices will be displayed on the notice board.

**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. **We need volunteers on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 will be available online and 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.

**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.

**The feast day of St Andrew** is on November 30<sup>th</sup>. As one of the twelve apostles, Andrew worked closely with Jesus during his public life. He was present at the Last Supper, witnessed Christ's Resurrection and the Ascension and shared in the graces and gifts of the first Pentecost. The good deeds and preaching of St. Andrew became known in all parts of the world. According to tradition, a part of the remains of St. Andrew were taken to Scotland, and he was chosen as the Protector of the Scottish people. The Cross of St. Andrew also adorns the British flag where it was placed after the union of Scotland and England.

**Advent Lecture** from The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom will be hosted at St Patrick's in Soho, W1D 4NR on **Friday 6 December** at 7 for 7.30pm (drinks beforehand). Fr Nicholas Crowe OP, from the Dominican Friars, will explore the Church's mission as a personal responsibility for all baptised Christians, addressing how transformation begins within, through a renewal of the mind and a connection between intellect and will. He addresses the divide between sacred and secular work, urging Christians to see all legitimate work as part of God's providence. Fr Nicholas calls for integrity, justice and a transformative Christian presence in every vocation, reflecting the Gospel and inviting others to Christ. For more details and to book tickets

<https://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events>

**Westminster Cathedral Carol Concert** We won't be holding one this year but Westminster Cathedral are selling tickets for their annual Christmas concerts by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 18 and 19 December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or from here <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582>