

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

Parish Office: islington@rcdow.org.uk, **Safeguarding Rep:** Frances Rooney (islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

First Sunday of Advent (Year C – 1st December 2024)

This Week

| This Week | | |
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| Weekday Masses | Sunday Masses | Confessions |
| Mon – Fri 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) |

But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.' This First Sunday of Advent is not about Christmas! It is about the second coming of Christ. Jesus is coming back and he will judge both living and the dead. This is the creed we profess every Sunday. Do I live like this was true though? Or rather is my life a bit weighed down by the cares of life, or by a little secret addiction, or anything else that robs me of hope? The Lord is coming to our aid! 'Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Christ is coming already today, in this mass, in this word, redeem us (from 'buy back' in latin). So let yourself be saved. Look up, renounce the lies of the devil and profess your faith in Christ. Be restored and have hope!

News & Events

Planned Giving Drive Week 3, final week Thank you to all who listened and read the booklets so far. This is the final week and we really do appreciate any support that you can give to our/your parish.

Next coffee morning Let's make this a really vibrant community. Join other parishoners for a quick coffee, cake and a chat. If you don't want to chat, that's ok too. Just eat cake! It's after the **10am Mass on Sunday 8th December.**

Immaculate Conception Next week, 8th December is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (moved to the 9th as it was falling on a Sunday). We'll take this wonderful moment to re-consecrate our parishes and all in it to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

First Holy Communion Parents meeting This is the 3rd one and it is scheduled for **7pm Thursday December 5th**. Remember, these are compulsory and are for parents only. It'll be in the church again.

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 has now been confirmed as **6pm Friday 30th May** with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. If you wish to be enrolled, please complete a form from the website or pick one up in the church porch.

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. A lot of parishes will be moving to the new lectionary today, to coincide with the new liturgical year. At St John's, we will be introducing this change later in 2025 (this is also partly due to costs, it's too expensive to replace the lectionary and people's books we need to, at the moment!)

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, on the notice board and available to take home with you in the church porch.

Christmas lunch – call for helpers! On Christmas Day this year, at St John's school, 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.. There are a few ways you can get involved. **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 will be available at the back of the church this week or next. 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! Thank you to all who have generously shared their pictures. If you would like to appear on our new website and if you have pictures of Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or weddings then please do email them to us. We might not be able to use all the photos, but will let you know when they're published. Digital copies only please.

Available from our church – The Catholic Herald This is an award winning Roman Catholic monthly magazine which The Guardian has described as 'the nearest Roman Catholics in this country have to a proper weekly newspaper'. Please do support this magazine which you can find at the repository (to the left of the main church door).

Scam emails targeting parishioners We mentioned this last week and just wanted to remind you to stay vigilant with scammers who are targeting parishioners, impersonating their priests. The scam emails typically request the parishioner 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 them, please don't respond and contact the parish office immediately. Thank you.

Support Pax Christi, an international Catholic peace movement, for their annual Advent Service. It's on **Friday 6th December at 6pm**. This will be followed by an Alternative Christmas market from 7pm to 9pm with refreshments, Palestinian and Fairtrade goods and stalls at St. Aloysius Church, London NW1 1TA.

Advent Lecture The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom's Advent Lecture will be given by Fr Nicholas Crowe OP, a Dominican, at St Patrick's Soho, W1D 4NR on **Fri 6 December** at 7 for 7.30pm (drinks beforehand). Fr Nicholas will explore the Church's mission and personal vocation, and how we are transformed through a renewal of our intellect and will. He addresses the sacred-secular divide in work, urging Christians to see all legitimate work as part of God's providence. Tickets and details at <https://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events>

Buying Christmas presents? Advent is a time of prayer and preparation to prepare for the coming of Jesus: if he doesn't come back now, we remember his first coming in Bethlehem. But it's easy to be distracted with expectations of Christmas and the shopping involved. Maybe you could consider a 'virtual Christmas present' such as buying a goat, essentials for a family in need, through charities such as CAFOD, SCIAF or Christian Aid? Asking your children to choose the gifts is a wonderful way of teaching how other people live. You can also search for St John's at the www.easyfundraising.org.uk before going to any retailer who will then donate to us.