

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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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C – 19th January 2025)

This Week

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)

Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah is revealed, first, at a wedding. The gospel is framed by weddings: it starts with Jesus appearing at a wedding and in the last page, in the book of Revelation, we see heaven and earth united in a wedding, with a feast which we will celebrate all through eternity. But even the first page of Genesis has Adam and Eve, created in a spousal relationship. Why these weddings? Why are they so important? A wedding is where two complete strangers become united in a bond which is closer than that of blood. And from the beginning to the end, this was God's plan. To unite us, who are completely different to him - he is the Creator, we are creatures, and creatures who have rebelled, on top of that – to himself in a wedding he will perform. A wedding which will happen on the Cross. It is why the Church has also always fought for marriage; the union of a man and a woman able to be fruitful, with the natural capacity for life, naturally goes to the core of all we have been shown by God, in his work in the world. Jesus appears in a wedding, which has run out of wine causing much shame to the family. It is Mary who first notices this, even before they do. And she covers their shame with her prayer. This is what Mary does always. She is a mother, who covers her children, whatever be their state. At her intercession, Jesus will change water into wine in that first wedding. At his Father's command, he will turn that wine into his blood at the last. That blood, gives us life, preparing us for the eternal wedding to which we are invited.

News & Events

Free to take! If you want to grow deeper in your Scriptures, one simple way is to prayerfully reflect on the Sunday readings before Mass. Today, **January 19th** and next Sunday on **January 26th**, you'll have a great opportunity to make this easier by taking home the old Missals (the books we use to follow the readings at Mass). The old ones are at the back of the church in brown paper bags. These are free to take but if you'd like to make a donation towards the cost of the new Missals we would be very grateful!

Do you feel stuck in your faith? Maybe you're not sure if God has a plan for you? You might find these answers in an exciting retreat weekend we will be hosting at Bl.Sacrament church, between **7-9th February, 2025**. It's titled 'Radical Conversion of our Hearts'. It will be led by Patrick and Joy Campbell (www.CrossofStBenedict.com) who are much sought after missionaries, who have changed countless lives through their breakthrough healing workshops. To book tickets, use the QR code.



Coffee on the 26th 26th January, is the Sunday of the Word of God when we will introduce our new missals. We will also have the **Rite of Acceptance** for our catechumens (those becoming Catholic this Easter); and we will have our usual monthly coffee after. Do stay and chat, and get to know a few people and welcome our new catechumens; let us do our part to making this a community of faith and love!

Pax Christi Today, 19th January, is 'Peace' Sunday. We are asked by the bishops to pray for Peace and Reconciliation in our families and in our world suffering from war and strife. Please take a special Peace Sunday

prayer card from the table outside; this is produced by *Pax Christi*, a catholic international organisation that works for Peace and Reconciliation in the world. There will also be envelopes should you wish to make a donation. You may like to consider membership of Pax Christi during this Holy Year.

Mass of the Sick with Anointing This year, it's on **Saturday 8th February**. The location is Westminster Cathedral, and it starts at 2pm. The celebrant will be H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Tickets are limited to please email or call the office soon clearly specifying the number of tickets that you need for the following categories: (1) Wheelchair user for anointing (2) walking sick for anointing (3) assisting the sick where no anointing is required. Tickets can then be collected from the parish office or emailed to you.

Sahara walking retreat An exciting opportunity to make a walking retreat in the Sahara! Dates from 10th to 25th February. The desert is always a privileged place of encounter with God in the Scriptures. But simply walking in the desert has its own soothing and balancing effect on our beings. This is a unique experience and a chance to take a step back and reflect on your spiritual life. Leaflets in the porch and info at www.desert-retreat.com

Married, loving and living it? Are you willing to help couples forge a lifelong loving relationship? **Marriage Care** is a charity that runs marriage preparation courses for couples marrying in a Catholic church, and is looking for new course facilitators. Training is provided, and volunteers will join the local Centre. For more information, please call Karen on 0800 389 3801 (09:00 – 17:00, Mon – Thurs) or visit our website at: <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/mpcf/>

Book Launch The Romero Rosary: Praying the Mysteries of Faith with Our Lady and St Oscar Romero This new book, by Bishop John Wilson, contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary and the NEW Romero mysteries illumined for reflection and prayer by St Oscar's own words. St Oscar Romero is a saint for our time, faithful to Christ and to the Church, and committed to the defence of human life and dignity. He calls us to love the Lord Jesus and Mary, his Mother, and to put our faith into practice. The rosary is a beautiful way to pray with him, united in spiritual friendship, asking for strength to live out our discipleship today. Available from <https://www.paulineuk.org/> (ISBN:9781904785866 £10.99).

St Richard Reynolds Catholic College Vacancy The college is currently looking for a teacher of Religious Education. For more information, view their website <https://strichardreynolds.org.uk/> and please contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk or phone 0208325 4630 for more information.

Student's Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome A students' pilgrimage from St Mary's University to Rome is being organised from **23 to 28 February 2025** and other students are welcome to join. The group will stay in Palazzola and travel with British Airways, costing £700 for travel and half-board. If you would like more information, please contact Grazia Hazell at chaplaincy@stmarys.ac.uk.

The Holy Year of Jubilee, 2025 began on Christmas Eve with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome and on the 29th December, at Westminster Cathedral. The Church first declared a Holy Year in 1300 and has continued ever since. Jubilees are occasions of renewal, to undergo a 'reset'. And this Holy Year invites us to deepen and renew the place of hope in our lives with its theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. There are many graces to be received in a time such as this. Try to participate in some of the events happening for this year in the Diocese. Do not let this pass you by!

What would help you? We are barely out of Christmas, but Lent looms around the corner! There are always lots of spiritual activities in Churches for Lent and it's a time when we look for some new way of engaging with our spiritual life. We have done different things in the past – but are there some things you would like to see happen/be involved in/find helpful to grow in your faith? Let us know! Speak to us or mail us at the office.

Any young women thinking of religious life? The Religious of the Assumption are inviting single women (18-30s) to discern a call to consecrated life, for a weekend in Rome, from **Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February**. The weekend will include Mass in St Peter's Basilica, time for personal prayer and sharing, input on discernment. Board and lodging are provided, with participants only paying for their travel. Places are limited, and are open to participants speaking English, Italian, French or Lithuanian. **Closing date 20 January**. For more information or to register email vocations@assumpta-eu.org.