

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)

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C – 2nd March 2025)

This Week		
Weekday Masses, Devotions, talks	Sunday Masses	Confessions
Mon funeral. Details below.	Saturday Vigil 6pm	Saturday 5:30 - 5:50pm
Tue 10am Mass followed by Adoration	Sunday 10am, 12 noon, 6.30pm	(and anytime, as possible, on request)
Ash Wednesday 10am followed by Adoration; 6pm Mass	(also mass at Bl.Sacrament at 1230 PM)	
Thu 10am Mass + talk	Lenten Talks on John's Gospel after Mass Thursdays (replaces Adoration)	
Fri 10am Mass + Stations		

Jesus uses a lot of comical images to make his point as we come to the end of the beatitudes in Luke. There are people who are blind, following another blind person and end up falling into a pit. The blindness that Scripture talks about of course, is spiritual blindness. Blindness, firstly, means that we are unaware of our own wounded state and broken condition – we think we can see, while we are in fact, blind. We are unaware of our sin and hence our need for forgiveness. Since the person never reaches out to be healed, God can't heal them. This was Jesus' accusation against the Pharisees. During the healing of the blind man, Jesus will tell them, 'if you said you were blind, you would not have sin, but since you claim to see, your sin remains'. But the fact that we are blind to our sin, does not mean that we escape its consequences. The guilt that we carry needs resolution. It can be resolved through forgiveness or we can justify its presence. When we justify it, we become hardened to it. And it affects the way we see (or don't see) everything. But this healing comes simply, for the asking. *Ask, and you shall receive.* As Lent begins, let us ask God to open our eyes. Let us be willing to let go of what God says harms us. Go to Confession. Come back to Mass. Learn to pray. And be healed of your sin.

News & Events

New Website Our new website is now live! It's still being worked on and pages being added, but do take a look. Hopefully you'll find it easy to navigate and helpful in connecting with the parish. Planned events for Lent (and more) are now posted and accessible from the home page <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/>

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday. It's the start of Lent where we focus on prayer, penance and charity giving. Let's start Lent by attending one of our two services at **10am** or **6pm**.

Learning during Lent, Thursday after 10am Mass. We're very fortunate that Fr John, who teaches Scripture in seminary at Allen Hall resides at our presbytery. Those who have heard him will know that he's a great communicator. Fr John will be conducting a series of short talks on Thursday mornings (after the 10am Mass) from 10.30am to 10.50. It's only 20 minutes and it'll be a great opportunity to go deeper into what is perhaps the most puzzling while at the same time beautiful of the gospels – that of St John the Evangelist. The talks are scheduled on **March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, April 3rd and 10th**. Do join us if you can. If you also have other suggestions on what might be particularly helpful for you to grow in your faith, we are very open to listening to them. Drop us a line!

The Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross after Friday 10am Mass During Lent, starting this **Friday 7th after the 10am Mass**. This is a devotion that honours Jesus's life, death and resurrection using the paintings around the Church and prayers to help us reflect.

Start your Lent charity drive by donating some foreign currency. This is a nice way to give without feeling the pinch. **Mary's Meals** envelopes for foreign currency are now available at the back of the church. UK notes and coins out of circulation are very welcome too. Please find any foreign currency that may be hiding in your home and fill up an envelope. Once filled, return your envelope (or any envelope) to the presbytery (red door to the left of the church). Mary's Meals feeds over 2.4 million young children with one good meal a day at school.



Requiescat in pace At St John's, the following funerals will take place: **Sylvia D'Souza** funeral will take place at 1pm on Monday 3rd March 2025; **Wieslawa Marie Zygodllo** on Monday 17th March 2025 at 12.30pm. There will be no 10am Mass or adoration on those days.

First Holy Communion meeting for parents This will be on **Thursday 6th March at 7pm** in the church. Not long before the big day so thank you in advance for making the effort to come along.

Who is the new priest at 10am Sundays?! We are pleased to welcome Fr Bill Bowder, an ex-Anglican, now retd. Catholic priest who lives nearby. Fr Bill writes - "I am so pleased that Fr Rajiv has invited me to celebrate mass at St John The Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament. It was at St John's that I realised God was calling me into the Catholic Church. My wife and I had been working in a rural Church of Ireland parishes, first in Co. Waterford and then in Co. Wicklow. At the start of the new millennium we returned to England. As a former journalist I got a job as a reporter working on the Church Times in Upper Street while also working as an asst priest in Oxfordshire. After hearing the call, I talked to the then parish priest at St John's who referred me to the bishop and after discernment and instruction I was received into the Catholic Church in 2012. I was trained in Chelsea and in Rome, ordained in Westminster Cathedral and worked in parishes in Highbury and In Fulham. I retired four years ago when I became 75. My wife, a writer, playwright and mother of our three children and I moved to a small flat next to Chapel Market in September and we look forward to seeing this as our home."

Help the church and get paid?! We're looking to hire a parish administrator for Blessed Sacrament church, who might enjoy the slightly unpredictable and quirky world of the church combined with stability of administration. It would involve about 10 hrs each week to start, working closely with Sr Miriam. Sometimes you'll be at Copenhagen Street and other times here at St John's. There'll be the occasional evening or weekend work. Applications close **4th March**. If interested, please apply through the Diocesan website. You can also find other job listings there which might be helpful! Thank you. <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-administrator-islington-and-copenhagen-street/>

Donation for Missals Thank you to those of you that have donated so far. If you would still like to make a donation to help cover this cost, it would be gratefully received. Our new missals cost us over £2500. You could also dedicate one of the altar missals towards a loved one; if you wish to do so, please contact the parish office. In the meantime, you're warmly invited to give our old missals, laid out outside, a good home. They can both help you grow deeper in your love and knowledge of Scripture – so don't miss!

Do you know what a Jumbulance is? A Jumbulance is a medically adapted coach that's accessible for wheelchairs and stretcher beds making travel easier for those that may require specialist equipment or support to get away. The Jumbulance Trust is running a pilgrimage to Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 April**. If you're interested in a place as a carer or a person with a disability then please visit this web page <https://www.jumbulance.org.uk/uk-destinations> or telephone Laura Owens on 074 8341 4330.

A walking pilgrimage that starts at your doorstep (nearly) The Westminster Way is a gentle walk of about 5 miles from Tower Hill to the Cathedral, passing through Moorfields, Charterhouse, Ely Place, Maiden Lane and Westminster. Just start when it suits you and you can break it up into stages too so great for all generations and people with disabilities. There are excellent guides to the route, highlights and suggested prayers here <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/westminster-way/>

Jubilee Year Indulgences The Diocese of Westminster has produced a guide on how to obtain the plenary indulgence for the Jubilee Year, without the need to travel to Rome or other pilgrimage centres around the world. The guide is available as <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/the-jubilee-indulgence-step-by-step/>