THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST & BLESSED SACRAMENT

St John's **http://www.islingtonchurch.org.uk/**
Blessed Sacrament **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet**

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 13th September 2026 Missal Page 399

St John the Evangelist Church
39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL

The Blessed Sacrament Church
157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR

MASS TIMES AND MASS INTENTIONS	
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST	
Sat 12th Sep 6pm	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass All Our Parishioners
Sun 13th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Richard Moles RIP Brendan McKenna RIP
Mon 14th 10am	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sandro Invitti RIP
Tue 15th 10am	Our Lady of Sorrows Daniel Daley Sr RIP (25th Anniv)
Wed 16th 10am	Sts Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs Brendan McKenna RIP
Thu 17th 10am	Feria or St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church or St Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Sr Monique INT
Fri 18th 10am	Feria Naomi Stephens 25th ANNIV (in June)
Sat 19th 6pm	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Jason Mark Gaubert, Wayne Justin Gaubert RIP
Sun 20th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time May Moles RIP Monica Comerford ANNIV All Our Parishioners
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for our deceased relatives, may they rest in peace.	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 13th Sep 9 am 11 am	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time All Our Parishioners
Mon 14th 12.30 pm	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for blessings to all the volunteers at this parish.	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

St John's https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/donate/
Blessed Sacrament https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet/donate/

PARISH OFFICE LOCATED AT
39 Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL

Opening times Mon, Thur, Fri 1030 to 1730, Wed 1030 to 1430

Office @ St John's islington@rcdow.org.uk
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Last week at the National Television Awards, the BBC Documentary, 'Our Girls', which tells the stories of Alice, Bebe and Elsie, whose lives were taken in the Stockport attack in 2024, won the award for the best authored documentary. The mother of Elsie, accepting the award remarked that this was not a documentary that should have had to be made, and that the people's votes were for their three girls. It was an emotionally-laden moment, one that underscored how grief can inspire ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. Those who have seen the documentary will know that this did not come easy, it is difficult enough for any parent to have to deal with the death of their child, but this is amplified when their death was the result of the deliberate actions of another. Our Lady understands this better than most, and her example provides us with a model of how can overcome such deep, personal pain.

Recall that at the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Simeon says to Mary, "*…and a sword will pierce through your own soul also…*" (Luke 2:35) The original Greek word for sword used here is '*rhomphaiai*', which means not a small dagger, but a large broad sword. Such an image, as Edward Sri comments, "*underscores the intense suffering she will endure because of her son's rejection*." Mary had to watch her son be arrested, falsely accused, beaten, spat upon, and die as criminal in the most shameful way possible for a Jew, being hung on a tree. As those of us who had to watch those we love suffer know, the pain and anguish we feel at not being able to do anything to help our loved ones is unbearable. When this pain was caused by others, we can so easily let our anger and frustration come to bear upon them, or even God, for allow such an injustice to happen.

Interestingly, as Edward Sri points out, in Luke's Gospel Mary's soul is mentioned just twice, during the Magnificat when she says her soul magnifies the Lord, and then during Simeon's second prophecy. There is a spiritual lesson we can draw from this, that, "*Mary's soul magnifies God the most by sharing in the sword of Christ's sufferings…Mary makes God great in her soul the most when she participates in the sacrificial love of her Son – when her soul is pierced by the sword.*" O.Lady of Sorrows reminds us that our suffering in this life, even those caused by the deliberate, often selfish acts of others, is never in vain, even if at times if it seems wholly unjust. Her son endured such injustice but if we can unite our suffering with Jesus', then there is hope. Mary's soul was pierced by the sword of pain and suffering when her son was crucified, but when God raised him from the dead, this was turned into joy beyond all measure. Our Lady of Sorrows reminds us that even in the darkest of times, when our suffering or that of those we love is unbearable, if we continue to trust in God, we will not be disappointed, because there is no evil in this world that God cannot transform for our good, for as Gabriel so rightly said to Mary at the Annunciation, "*…with God nothing will be impossible.*" (Luke 1:37) **Fr Dan.**

Fr Rajiv Michael, Parish Priest, rajivmichael@rcdow.org.uk
Fr Daniel Daley, Assistant Priest

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WHAT'S ON

Sat 19th Sep, 7.15pm Movie night with free drinks and snacks, St John's
Sun 20th Sep, after 10am Mass, intro talk for all new First Holy Communion families, St John's
Sat 26th Sep, 7.30pm, Organ concert at St John's
Tue 22nd or 29th Sep, 7.30pm, RCIA starts, St John's, tbd
Sat 3rd Oct, St Francis celebration with Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at St John's
Thu 15th Oct, Adoration Event, St John's, time tba

REGULAR

Adoration Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 10.30am to 11am at St John's
Confessions At Blessed Sacrament, after the Monday 12.30pm Mass. At St John's, Saturday 5.30pm to 5.50pm
Rosary after Monday 12.30pm Mass at The Blessed Sacrament
Rosary, intercessory after Wednesday 10am Mass at St John's
Divine Mercy Chaplet First Friday of the Month, 3pm at St John's
Filipino Mass 3rd Sunday at 3pm at The Blessed Sacrament

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? If this is a yes then a warm welcome to our parish of The Blessed Sacrament and St John's. We'll be beginning the RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) by the end of this month at 7.30pm, St John's. Exact date to be announced! Please apply by either emailing us or using the form in the church porch or on the website https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/rcia/ Please email it back to us or hand it to a priest after Mass. More information about the course can be found on the preceding web link. We look forward to hearing from you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION For all families that would like their children to receive First Holy Communion then you're very welcome. There is an intro talk for newcomers and their families on **Sunday 20th September** after the 10am Mass at St John's. Please note that this is an ongoing program. First Holy Communion takes place when your child and you are ready. That's because, you, the parents are the teachers! We ask that the whole family participate and travel on this journey of faith together, to get to know God together. It's a beautiful gift and indeed, this is the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) pathway. Please see our website for more details https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/first-holy-communion/

MOVIE NIGHT At St John's in the crypt after the Vigil Mass at 7.15pm. There'll be free snacks, drinks and a Catholic themed film on **Saturday September 19th** Come along, eat, drink and watch the film. Everyone is welcome.

NEXT WEEK, OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FROM THE HOLY LAND The Good Shepherd Company, originally from Bethlehem and now based in Nottingham will be selling olive wood carvings in support of Christian families in the Holy Land, for whom this craft is a vital source of income and essential for their livelihood.

CALLING SINGLE CATHOLICS looking for someone decent to marry. Increase your chances with a new Catholic matchmaking service built by a young Catholic. gracemeetapp.com is for single adults seriously seeking marriage. There is no swiping. Each week, a small number of carefully chosen matches are suggested based on faith, values and life stage. Every profile is identity verified, and the service is free while in its early stages.

MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage.
Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct, bookings close 18th Sep. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel 0788 7296983.

COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE ST FRANCIS at St John's on **Saturday October 3rd .** This date will be exactly 800 years since St Francis died. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will be leading the celebrations. St Francis is the second patron of this parish and if you miss this event on this day, you'll need to wait another 100 years for another centenary celebration so all good reasons to come along. Timings to be announced.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THE BIBLE FROM MEMORY? Errol McGlashan, once a repeat offender and now reformed by Christ, will be performing, entirely from memory, all 16 chapters of the Gospel of Mark. Errol will be giving a dramatic recital of the Gospel of Mark. The performance has been showcased at the 2026 Fringe festival and will be on Thursday 17 September, 6.30pm - 8pm, Etcetera Theatre, above the Oxford Arms, 265 Camden High Street, London NW1 7BU.

SUPPORT WITH SCHOOL UNIFORM You or someone you know may be eligible for a School Uniform Grant from Islington Council. These support families preparing for the new academic year in buying school uniform if your child is moving to secondary school from year 6. For more information, including eligibility please visit Islington Council website. https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/help-with-childcare-and-family-costs/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant

YEAR 7 SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School's open evening is on Thursday 17th and Tuesday 22nd September https://www.cvms.co.uk/. **St Aloysius' College**'s is also on 17th September https://www.sta.islington.sch.uk/.**Maria Fidelis**'s open evening is on Wednesday 23rd September https://www.mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk/

THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL INTER-FAITH GROUP are invited to an evening at Brondesbury Park for International Peace Day. Sept 16 5 to 7 refreshments will be served and you will be able to visit the beautiful mosque. The address is Chevening Road NW6 6PF Brondesbury Park tube station is nearby. Please reply to a.azam@alkhoei.org.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM The annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, led by Archbishop Richard Moth, will take place on Saturday, 19 September. A coach will depart from Westminster Cathedral at 6.45am, with Fr Witoń accompanying the group. The cost is £40 per person, and booking and payment can be made through Clergy House Reception.

BEYOND TYBURN: THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF THE REFORMATION Learn about influential Catholics of the Reformation. Wednesday 16th September, at 6.45pm (after 6pm Mass) in the downstairs parish room at St Anselm and St Cecilia's Church, 70 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3JA. RSVP cenacletotheholyspirit@yahoo.com. The talk is free, but donations are much appreciated.

LET US WALK A national walking pilgrimage taking place from 5-9 Oct, the week before the Adoremus Eucharistic Celebration on 10 Oct. The pilgrimage will start at the Church of St Francis of Assisi in Maidstone and finish at St George's Cathedral in Southwark on Friday 9 Oct. The walk will mark the year of St Francis of Assisi and will embody his values of joy, simplicity, humility, peace and love of creation. Full details https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/let-us-walk-that-we-may-adore-2026

CARITAS DEAF SERVICE 50TH ANNIVERSARY will celebrate on Saturday 26 September with a Mass at 2pm in Westminster Cathedral. All invited to join the Mass in Word and Sign.

LONDON CATHOLIC ORCHESTRA This is a new project-based ensemble bringing together musicians who share a love of the Western classical tradition and the beauty of orchestral music. There are no auditions or membership fees, but players should be able to prepare orchestral repertoire independently and perform to a high standard. Please complete the registration form (https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/NFYfKA45uv),if you are interested.