# 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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
**Year A – 27th September 2026 Missal Page 406**

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

The Blessed Sacrament Church
157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR

| MASS TIMES AND MASS INTENTIONS | |
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| **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST** | |
| **Sat 26th Sep**<br>6pm | Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass<br>Seifemicael PERPETUAL HELP |
| **Sun 27th**<br>10am<br>12 noon<br>6.30pm | Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>George McCann ANNIV<br>Michael Joseph Wright RIP<br>All Our Parishioners |
| **Mon 28th**<br>10am | Feria or St Wenceslaus or St Laurence Ruiz and Companions<br>Yordanos INT |
| **Tue 29th**<br>10am | Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael<br>Alex Wu RIP |
| **Wed 30th**<br>10am | St Jerome<br>For our parish, St John's and Blessed Sacrament BLESSINGS |
| **Thu 1st Oct**<br>10am | St Thérèse of the Child Jesus<br>Tom O'Sullivan RIP |
| **Fri 2nd**<br>10am | Holy Guardian Angels<br>David Yen and Martina Pan BLESSINGS |
| **Sat 3rd**<br>6pm | Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass<br>Teresa Nora Moroney, Patricia Eileen Moroney, Margaret Francis Moroney, Catherine Angela Moroney ANNIV |
| **Sun 4th**<br>10am<br>12 noon<br>6.30pm | Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>Rosa Pan RIP<br>Catherine Walsh GET WELL BLESSINGS<br>All Our Parishioners |
| **Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for Neary Pollak's prayer intentions.** | |
| **BLESSED SACRAMENT** | |
| **Sun 27th Sep**<br>9 am<br><br>11 am | Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>All deceased members of the O'Donnell Family – RIP<br>All Our Parishioners |
| **Mon 28th**<br>12.30 pm | Feria or St Wenceslaus or St Laurence Ruiz and Companions |
| **Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for the Copenhagen Street Foodbank volunteers and clients.** | |

**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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Grace Wu, Parish Administrator 020 7226 3277

**Fr Dan writes…**

When I was ordained a priest, I had to make three vows or promises. The first was to pray the Divine Office, to participate in the daily prayer life of the Church; the second was a vow of celibacy; and the third was a vow of obedience to my bishop and his successors. People often assume that the vow of celibacy is the hardest of the vows to observe but the hardest vow for me will always be obedience to my bishop! This is because the bishop can ask his priests to move at any time and in obedience and trust, we should obey, trusting that God's plan for us is being fulfilled through our bishop. This provides us with a freedom from ambition, and it is helpful to know our future is in God's hands, but this does not make it any easier to accept when it happens.

This week Archbishop Richard asked me to become the parish priest of Wheathampstead and Redbourn and a part of me did not want to go as I am genuinely very settled and happy here. However, upon reflection, as St Paul said in our second reading today, I realised that I should not do anything from selfish ambition or conceit, instead in humility I need to count others more significant than myself, and so I accepted the wishes of my Archbishop. Obedience is a challenge not just for priests but for all Christians. While most Christians do not swear obedience to a bishop, Jesus makes it clear that if we truly wish to follow him, then we must be obedient to our heavenly Father, we have to be willing to live as he asks of us, to go where he wants us to go, to be what God made each of us to be.

Jesus revealed throughout his life, that the only way we can truly remain obedient to God is to be humble, to let go of our earthly ambitions, and to trust that God knows what is best for us. From his incarnation to the crucifixion, we see, as St Paul so beautifully explains that, "*though [Jesus] was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but he emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*" Jesus remains obedient to God, even when this cost him his life because he trusted that God knew what he was doing. This proved to be true for after he suffered and died, "*God had highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name…*"

I have enjoyed my time here with you, not just because you all mostly appreciate my football references at the end of Mass, or because of our wonderful primary school, St John's, or even because I get to live so close to the Emirates Stadium, but because from the beginning you have made me feel so welcome and at home in your parish. While I am sad to be leaving, following the example of our Lord and honouring the vow I made at my ordination, I will embrace the will of my Archbishop and that of God. Remaining obedient to God, as our Lord demonstrates, is not always easy, but as Jesus also reveals, it is the only way for us to follow him into his eternal glory. May this truth inspire us to be obedient to God especially in those moments when this is difficult, so that we may be worthy of a share is Jesus' eternal victory over sin and death.

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

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**WHAT'S ON**

Sat 26th Sep, 7.30pm, Organ concert at St John's
Mon 28th Sep, 8pm, GIFT First Holy Communion by Zoom
Tue 29th Sep, 7.30pm, RCIA starts, St John's
Sat 3rd Oct, St Francis celebration with Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at St John's
Thu 15th Oct, 6.30pm to 8pm, Adoration Event, St John's
Sat 31st Oct, 9.30am, GIFT First Holy Communion, St John's

**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

**THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS** This week we celebrate some glorious feasts, including the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and the Guardian Angels. Angels are sometimes treated like children's fairy tales but Scripture and the Church take them (very) seriously: they are real, powerful spiritual beings who serve God and his purposes. We see Gabriel for example, who carries God's missions, Raphael who brings healing, and Michael fighting heaven's battles against demons. There are nine ranks of angels. And God gives each of us a guardian angel: always with us, praying for us, protecting us and leading us towards God. Without a guardian angel, no one would survive. Aquinas also says they enlighten and teach us, helping us to live wisely. What extraordinary love God shows us, giving us a personal spiritual protector. Have you prayed to your guardian angel lately? And have you taught your children their guardian angel prayer? Do you pray for your children, asking for their angel's special protection? Will you not breathe a bit more easily, if you knew that these powerful beings were there, just to watch over your child! Look it up this week – and try to come to Mass for some of these feasts!

**ADORATION AND HEALING SERVICE** On **Thursday October 15th** at St John's, we are delighted to be holding a led Adoration and healing service, with opportunity for individual prayer for healing. The Adoration will be led by a group of sisters from Brazil who are particularly gifted in prayer and music ministry and it is a great gift to have them here. Do you need healing? Come along! Or simply come and spend time before the Lord! From 6.30-8pm, with refreshments in the crypt afterwards.

**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) this **Tuesday 29th September** at 7.30pm, St John's. Please apply by either emailing us or using the form in the church porch or on the website. More information here: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/rcia/ We look forward to hearing from you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** For all families that would like their children to receive First Holy Communion then welcome. This is different to most First Holy Communion programs. The sacrament is received when your child and you are ready rather than follow a fixed programme. 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. The next Zoom session is 28th Sept and in person session 31st October. Please see our website for more details https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/first-holy-communion/

**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.

**MIRACULOUS DISAPPEARANCES** We've had an extraordinary number of missals going missing at St John's. We've bought replacement missals with red covers. These are exactly the same as the blue ones (apart from the cover colour!). If you'd like to expand your knowledge and purchase your own copy, then we ask you to please contact the parish office and a donation of £20 would be most kind.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT** Last weekend, you generously helped raise around £1,800 from the purchase of olive wooden icons from the Good Shepherd Carvings Team. Your kindness and support are a real blessing and will help support Christian families in the Holy Land.

**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.

**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

**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.

**THE SUNDAY CLUB NEEDS YOU!** Love your neighbours by helping at the Sunday Club. You'll be joining an experienced team helping one Sunday every 7 weeks in the afternoon at St John's Crypt. Tasks involve setting up and serving snacks to guests. If you would like more details, please email Christine cmarodgers@yahoo.co.uk

**LOST PROPERTY** trays will be at the back of St John's and at the back of the Blessed Sacrament this weekend. Please take what's yours.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE** Brendan McCormack's funeral will be celebrated at St John's on **Wednesday 7th October** at 12 noon.

**ADOREMUS VIGIL** on Friday, 9 October 2026, from 7pm to 9 pm at the church of Most Holy Trinity, 39 Dockhead, London SE1 2BS (London Bridge/Bermondsey). The Adoration's reflection will be by Fr Emmanuel Mansford of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and worship music will be led by One Hope Project. The Vigil may especially resonate with young adults.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT** La Sainte Union Catholic School, near Kentish Town, is holding open sessions on Tuesday 29th Sept, Tues 13th Oct and Thur 15th Oct. Check out their website for timings https://www.lasainteunion.org.uk/

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**, 2 October 2026. If you would like to help our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water, please find envelopes at the back of the church.