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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 11th October 2026 Missal Page 414

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 10th Oct 6pm	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Patsy Walsh BLESSINGS
Sun 11th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Janet Mock INT Amos Curtis RIP All Our Parishioners
Mon 12th 10am	Feria or St Wilfrid Father Rajiv, Father Dan, and Sister Miriam BLESSINGS
Tue 13th 10am	St Edward the Confessor Eugenie Duffy HEALING
Wed 14th 10am	Feria or St Callistus I Zedy Sekeke RIP
Thu 15th 10am	St Teresa of Jesus Janey Laddiman, Leon Gee, all current and past members and volunteers of Ealing Youth Orchestra BLESSINGS
Fri 16th 10am	Feria or St Hedwig or St Margaret Mary Alacoque Fr Terry Murray RIP
Sat 17th 6pm	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Vittorio Dall'Olmo RIP (50TH ANNIVERSARY)
Sun 18th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time May Moles RIP All Our Parishioners Rob McMillan RD
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for all the people that helped and continue to help us on our faith journey	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 11th Oct 9 am 11 am	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time All Our Parishioners Eugene Smyth RIP
Mon 12th 12.30 pm	Feria or St Wilfrid
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for Sr Miriam	

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
Office @ Blessed Sacrament copenhagenstreet@rcdow.org.uk
Grace Wu, Parish Administrator 020 7226 3277

Fr Dan writes…

There are two theories about the time when St Paul wrote his letter to Philippians, one suggests that it was during his first imprisonment in Rome, so AD 61-62. The other suggests that it was written in AD 54-57 during his imprisonment in Ephesus. While the dates are in dispute, what is not is that St Paul was in prison when he wrote it, which makes the overall upbeat tone more remarkable. The saint is not bitter at being locked up, neither does he question God's plan, instead he graciously accepts his circumstances and trusts that he can do all things through Jesus Christ.

Much like the stoics, St Paul welcomed events that befell him both good and bad, he accepted them as they were and not as he would like them to be. Where he differed from the stoics was in his response to these events. For while stoics would argue that the key is how we choose to respond to these events, St Paul understood that we did not have to respond to these events alone, because Jesus is with us.

Our Lord is not just our cheerleader, encouraging, but as St Paul explains he strengthens us to face challenges before us. The most obvious example of this is through the kindness and good deeds of others. Paul, while he was in prison was supported by the Philippians which is why he thanks them so profusely and asks God to reward them for their goodness to him. A lovely little reminder to us that we should never pass on the opportunity to be kind, as a little kindness goes a long way, or as Aunty Lucy famously told Paddington Bear, "*If we're kind and polite, the world will be right.*"

However, there is a far deeper lesson here that we need to grasp if we are to face the ups and downs of life with faith, namely that he who strengthened Paul to do all things will also strengthen us. Our Lord achieves this every time we receive the EUCHARIST, for in this wonderful gift, we receive Jesus into our lives, and so we truly do not have to face anything alone. This is why, especially in those difficult and bad moments, we should continue to come to Mass, as only through our participation in the Mass can our Lord continue to guide us along the right path, to walk with us through the shadow of death, to comfort and console us.

When we immerse ourselves in the sacraments of Christ, we will discover, as St John Henry Newman famously said, that "*heart speaks to heart*". God wants to be with us, to be a part of our lives, to share in our joys and help us in our trials. As St Paul demonstrates, when Christ is alive in us, not only can we embrace all that comes our way, but we can also overcome any and all obstacles! May we never forget that it is through the sacramental life of Christ's Church that goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our life. When this magnificent truth becomes our reality, then like St Paul, not only will we have the strength to do all, but we too will acclaim, "*to our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*"

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

Charmaine Daley, safeguarding
Safeguarding @ St John's islingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding @ Blessed Sacrament
copenhagenstreetsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

WHAT'S ON
Thu 15th Oct, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Adoration Event, St John's
Thu 22nd Oct, 7pm, Caroline Chisholm talk, St John's
Sat 31st Oct, 9.30am, GIFT First Holy Communion, St John's
Sat 31st Oct, 7.30pm, London Choral Sinfonia, 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

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 6.30-8.30pm, with refreshments in the crypt afterwards.

RIGHT AT YOUR DOORSTEP, your local 19th century heroine, Caroline Chisholm, lived in the quiet townhouse at 32 Charlton Place. This was Caroline's headquarters. She was a devout Catholic convert and with her enormous faith, she became a real mover and shaker. Caroline rescued thousands of vulnerable women, assisted thousands of new Australian immigrants and was the first woman to speak in front of the House of Lords. Come to St John's on **Thursday, 22nd October** at 7pm to hear the witty and charismatic Catholic historian, Joanna Bogle, entertain and educate us with this one-hour talk.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC We have a wonderful group of people attending our RCIA programme on Tuesdays and they will continue now until June. May the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother Mary nurture the growing faith of our catechumens and those that are seeking reception into the Catholic Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next in person session is **Saturday 31st October** at 9.30am, St John's. 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. Please see our website for more details https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/first-holy-communion/

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL REFERENCE FORMS Please email the parish office and we will send you the relevant forms to complete. After these have been filled in, we will let you know the next steps. islington@rcdow.org.uk

PEFORMING AT ST JOHN'S, THE LONDON CHORAL SINFONIA on **Saturday, October 31 at 7.30pm**. Conductor Michael Waldron and organist James Orford (St Paul's Cathedral) will perform powerful organ and orchestra masterpieces, including Poulenc's fiery Organ Concerto, Bach's *Fantasia & Fugue in G minor*, and Malcolm Arnold's critically acclaimed, 5-star Concerto for Organ & Orchestra. Arrive at 7pm for a free pre-concert history talk by Colin Surtees, and stay after the performance for a complimentary drinks reception in the foyer. Tickets available from http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1999673369879

MONTH OF THE ROSARY is October. Why should you pray The Rosary? For those starting out, it's meditative, it's calming, it's peaceful, it's easy, it can be prayed anywhere, it helps us remember the key moments in Jesus's life and it helps us remember Mary, the most amazing Mother ever! If you have 10 fingers, you can pray The Rosary. If the whole Rosary seems too daunting, try reciting 10 Hail Mary's in a row. The Rosary can be prayed on your own, online with others around the world or more locally, after the 12.30pm Mass at Blessed Sacrament on Mondays or after the 10am Mass at John's on Wednesday. There's lots of online resources to show you how to pray The Rosary. Do try!

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.

ADVENT CALENDARS We're not even half way through October but the deadline for orders is coming up for the least commercialised, most meaningful and most Christian Advent Calendar. Say no to the flamboyant, excessive and ridiculously exuberant Advent Calendars and say yes to an Advent Calendar that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas. Calendars are £6 each. If you're interested, please speak to Maria Bird at the Blessed Sacrament or email islington@rcdow.org.uk

WHY BELIEVE? DEFENDING AND EXPLAINING THE FAITH Does the Christian faith make sense? Are there good reasons for someone to believe in God? This 4 session course starts on Saturday October 24th and is for people who want to explore these questions, and find clearer ways to answer them. This and other courses can be found here https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/

THE GOOD STEWARD: CATHOLIC PHILANTHROPY How can our faith shape the way we use our money and support others? The Good Steward is a new online series exploring giving, investment and estate planning as connected expressions of Christian stewardship, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. The first event, on Tuesday 13th October, will focus on Catholic philanthropy and how our giving can reflect our faith, values and responsibility to our neighbour. Each session lasts one hour, with identical online presentations available at either 8am or 6pm to suit different schedules. Book your place at https://www.ticketsource.com/catholics-in-fundraising/t-dkgqdmy.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE October 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Cardinal Hume Centre, which has provided support, hope and opportunity to thousands of people facing homelessness and hardship. To celebrate this milestone, a special Mass will be held at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 13th October at 5.30pm. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be the principal celebrant, with Bishop James Curry concelebrating alongside Dom Robert Igo OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey and President of the English Benedictine Congregation. All are warmly invited.

PROCESSION OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN You don't need to travel far to go on a pilgrim. Join pilgrims in praying the Rosary for the protection of London and for Peace on Sunday 18th October from 3pm to 4pm. The preacher will be Archbishop Richard Moth. For more details https://rcdow.org.uk/event/procession-of-our-lady-of-willesden-2/