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 Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 18th October 2026 Missal Page 418

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 17th Oct 6pm	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Vittorio Dall'Olmo ANNIV
Sun 18th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time May Moles RIP All Our Parishioners Rob McMillan RD
Mon 19th 10am	Feria or St John Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues or St Paul of the Cross Kevin MacAuley ANNIV
Tue 20th 10am	Feria Arthur Ward ANNIV
Wed 21st 10am	Feria
Thu 22nd 10am	Feria or St John Paul II Fr Joe Carter RIP
Fri 23rd 10am	Feria or St John Capistrano Elizabeth Goodwin RIP
Sat 24th 6pm	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Patricia and Brendan Moroney RIP
Sun 25th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Zedy Sekeke RIP
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for all the volunteers at our parishes	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 18th Oct 9 am 11 am	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time John Nord RIP and Peter Wotton RIP All Our Parishioners
Mon 19th 12.30 pm	Feria or St John Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues or St Paul of the Cross Vlad, Charles, Anne HEALING
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for the sick and their carers of our parishes	

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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Fr Rajiv writes…

Which image drives you? In today's Gospel, there is an unholy alliance between the Pharisees, who were religiously driven and looking forward to God's Kingdom – and normally despised Herod's people – unite with these who were politically driven and therefore happy to make best of the earthly kingdom. Jesus fit neither camp and they decide to unite against a perceived enemy, because he seems to threaten their security.

The question about paying taxes was politically explosive. If Jesus said no to taxes, Rome would immediately deal with him as inciting a rebellion: but if he said yes, it meant he was a Roman sympathiser and did not care about the oppression of the people.
But there was more at stake. The Roman denarius bore Caesar's image and the inscription *Divi Filius*– Son of God. For pious Jews, this was deeply offensive, idolatrous, let alone the tax being a reminder of their enslavement to Rome.

But the fact was that the Pharisees, let alone the Herodians profited from the same economy: Rome taxed Jews outside Jerusalem for the Temple. While they paid lip-service to the First Commandment, they were profiting from the same currency. And interestingly, they are carrying these coins in the Temple, which is forbidden, while Jesus is not.

Jesus' reply, to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God immediately shuts them up. So elegant, they have no comeback. The image on the coin was Caesar's – it revealed and established his authority. Using it made one subject to him – but Jesus was free.

Jesus was free because the image he bore was that of the Father. His life was given fully to the Father. And it was this image that he came to reveal, the same image in which you and I were created. To give back to God what belonged to him means to give to God our lives – for we bear his image and to him we belong.

The Pharisees marvel at his words but go away. They are too enmeshed in their system to want freedom. Jesus was too different, and the price was too much, perhaps to even move in that direction. It was better that the model itself was destroyed, so that there would be none to reveal that their choice was poorer.

Which image drives you, brothers and sisters? Are we living out of heaven, wherein lies our true home, where there is no sadness, suffering, fear and greed – or the earthly kingdom with which we are familiar – where there is competition, enslavement, stress and strife? The earthly kingdom is familiar to us, and therefore we gravitate towards it: but we bear the image of the King. To give our lives to him is the beginning of the life to which we are called, which our hearts truly long for.

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Fr Daniel Daley, Assistant Priest

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WHAT'S ON
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
Sun 8th Nov, after 11am Mass, Fr Dan's leaving party, Blessed Sacrament
Sat 5th Dec, 1pm, Christmas Bazaar, Blessed Sacrament

REGULAR
Jesus Youth Every Thursday 5.30pm to 8pm at Blessed Sacrament
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

YOUR LOCAL 19th CENTURY HEROINE, Caroline Chisholm, lived near you at the quiet townhouse at 32 Charlton Place. 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 **Thurs, 22nd Oct, 7pm** at St John's to hear the witty and charismatic Catholic historian, Joanna Bogle, entertain and educate us with this one-hour talk.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT THE BLESSED SACRAMENT – the big day is **Saturday 5th December** at 1pm. It's going to be a joyful afternoon filled with delicious homemade treats, exciting raffles, games, and so much more—the perfect way to celebrate together as a parish family. Every penny raised will directly support our vital parish ministries and community outreach work. Donations of new or used items are welcome but we respectfully ask that items donated are clean! And no electrical items nor underwear!!!

FR DAN'S LEAVING PARTY Time to say goodbye already. Fr Dan's made a big contribution to both parishes during his short tenure here and we're sad to see him move to St Alban's. We're also very grateful for his presence. We can show our appreciation to him after the 11am Mass at Blessed Sacrament on **Sunday 8th November**. Fr Dan will also have a similar leaving party at St John's, date to be announced.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REFERENCE FORMS Please email the Parish Office and we will send you the relevant forms to complete. We will let you know the next steps after reviewing this. Certificates of Practice, as the name indicates, are for those who practice their faith. Please do not be surprised if you have not been coming to Mass and therefore do not get your form signed.

JESUS YOUTH is an international youth movement and a group now meets every week on Thursdays at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to join this vibrant community in prayer and worship, Thursday evenings from 6 – 7:30 pm.

ALL SOULS' DAY, MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER There will be the regular Mass at St John's at 10am and 12.30pm at The Blessed Sacrament but there'll be an additional Mass at St John's at 6pm. **THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS** Please take a purple sheet from the back of the church, together with a donation envelope towards Requiem Masses, and write down the names of your own dear departed for whom you wish prayers to be offered. Return to the presbytery or to the priest. The pages will be assembled in a book of remembrance, which will be placed before the altar throughout November. On Remembrance Sunday, **8th November**, a Solemn Requiem Mass for all who have died in war will be offered at 12 noon at St John's and at 11am at the Blessed Sacrament.

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

OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY 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. You're welcome to join people praying the Rosary after Mass at 12.30pm, Blessed Sacrament on Mondays and after 10am Mass at John's on Wednesday.

ADVENT CALENDARS We're only in 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

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, 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. Please see our website for more details https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/first-holy-communion/

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/

PRAYING WITH THE SCRIPTURES WORKSHOP LED BY ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH On Saturday 24th October from 2 to 5pm, there will be a workshop on the prayerful reading of Scripture (Lectio Divina) with Archbishop Richard Moth at Westminster Cathedral Hall. If you are interested, Please book in advance if you wish to attend. To book a place, please click on the link**.**
https://forms.monday.com/forms/bb5339e87eed4f1387fe90ad3ca7759c?r=euc1&text0=

VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 31st October, 12 noon to 5pm. The day will include a procession and enthronement of the Fatima statue, followed by Mass by Archbishop Richard Moth.

KNIFE CRIME REDUCTION FORUM Caritas Westminster, the Justice & Peace team at St Mellitus RC Church, Tollington Park, and Operation Forgiveness are hosting a free online Knife Crime Reduction Forum on Thursday 22nd of October, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. For more details https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/knife-crime-reduction-forum-small-acts-wider-impact/

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is today, 18th October when Catholics around the world come together in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission work. 2026, marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI. Pope Leo has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission'. You can donate using envelopes at the back of the church. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-mission-sunday/