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**

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 25th October 2026 Missal Page 422

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 24th Oct 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 All Our Parishioners Bernard Donnelly, Shelia Donnelly and Carl Donnelly RIP
Mon 26th 10am	Feria or Sts Chad and Cedd Michael Moran ANNIV
Tue 27th 10am	Feria Wayne Justin Gaubert, Jason Gaubert RIP
Wed 28th 10am	Sts Simon and Jude Roy Burnham RIP
Thu 29th 10am	Blessed Martyrs of Douai John Hemer BIRTHDAY
Fri 30th 10am	Feria Zedy Sekeke RIP
Sat 31st 6pm	All Saints, Vigil Mass Danny Kelly and Theresa Doyle RECOVERY
Sun 1st Nov 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	All Saints Tommy Campbell RIP
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for all those that are ill or in care homes and for their carers.	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 25th Oct 9 am 11 am	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face – BLESSINGS All Our Parishioners
Mon 26th 12.30 pm	Feria or Sts Chad and Cedd David Thomas Fernandez Pinta ANNIV
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for all religious that have dedicated their lives to God, especially 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
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Grace Wu, Parish Administrator 020 7226 3277

Fr Dan writes…Earlier this week the findings of COVID enquiry in relation to care homes was published and the results were as horrific as expected. Despite assurances from the Government of the day, it was clear that there was no '*protective ring*' around the care sector but rather they had been an afterthought. Care home staff were not given the personal protective equipment (PPE) that they needed and so had to make their own. Then there was the decision to move hospital patients who may have had Covid back to the care homes to make space for others. Due to the high risks involved, these patients should have been isolated from others until it was confirmed that they were clear, but this was not part of the guidelines and so did not happen in many places. The results were tragic, made worse by the overly tight visiting restrictions, which the report concludes negatively affected the wellbeing of the care home residents.

There are those who say politics and faith should not mix, but having read the damning findings of this report it is abundantly clear that the simple principle that Jesus expounds in the Gospel this Sunday is to, "*love your neighbour as yourself*". If it had been applied by our politicians then this scandalous disregard for some our most vulnerable would not have happened. Having worked this last year with the staff in our two local care homes, Bridgeside Lodge and Muriel Street, I appreciate the efforts and diligence of the staff who constantly go the extra mile to ensure that the dignity of their patients is upheld. They work tirelessly with the families to ensure that our elderly, in their most vulnerable moments, are loved and cherished.

Moreover, I know there are many of us in the parish who have and are caring for elderly parents and/or relatives. This is not always easy, especially as their bodies and minds begin to wane, they can become frustrated and upset, and we often bear the brunt of this. Despite this, we are encouraged by our Lord to continue to love them, to be there for them, and to help them carry this, at times very difficult cross. If we can live this way, we are not just living as Jesus' asks, but we will also set a good example for our children, reminding them that we can continue to love our neighbour, even when this is difficult.

Ultimately, God's Word and the findings of the COVID enquiry demonstrate that our faith cannot be separate from our politics, instead our faith should impact the way we live our lives and this includes making sure our voices are heard in the political arena which shapes the society we live in. As so many of you did when presented with the challenge of assisted suicide, we must continue to bring our faith to bear on our politicians, especially if they don't agree with it, for it is through believers such as us, just as happened through the people of Thessalonica, that faith in God will spread everywhere! It is though our faithful practice and application of God's commandments that our world will be reminded that the bare minimum of any society, especially one that claims to be Christian, is that we love our neighbour, especially the most vulnerable ones, as we love ourselves.

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

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WHAT'S ON

Sat 31st Oct, 9.30am, GIFT First Holy Communion, St John's
Sat 31st Oct, 7.30pm, London Choral Sinfonia, St John's
Sun 1st Nov, deadline for Advent Calendars
Sun 1st Nov, charity cake sale after 10am and 12 noon Mass, St John's
Sun 8th Nov, after 11am Mass, Fr Dan's leaving party, Blessed Sacrament
Sun 14th Nov, after 6pm Mass, Fr Dan's leaving party, St John's
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

TWO SEMINARIANS Those at St John's last week were introduced to Shawn Sequeira and Joel Baskar, two very young seminarians who will be with us on Sundays as part of their pastoral placement. Shawn and Joel are part of the Augustinian order (the same order as Pope Leo!). They started their formation in India and are in the UK to continue their formation. They will be at Blessed Sacrament this week and then will alternate between the parishes each month. Do say hello to them and give them a warm welcome!

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. 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, no electrical items or underwear please! Please bring the items on Sundays. Mark your bag clearly with 'Bazaar' (to differentiate from Foodbank donations) and leave them near the storage room in the hall or at the back of the church if you're unable to take it down to the hall. Thank you.

FR DAN'S LEAVING PARTIES That's right. Not just one party but two. Say goodbye to Fr Dan at either or both parties. We can show our appreciation to him after the 11am Mass at Blessed Sacrament on **Sunday 8th November** and after the 6pm Vigil Mass at St John's on **Saturday 14th November**. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please email the office.

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 and write the names of your own dear departed for whom you wish prayers to be offered in our Requiem Masses. Please return to the presbytery or to the priest along with a suitable donation. 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.
(MISSING) ENVELOPES FOR THE HOLY SOULS At John's, this year and last year, the envelopes we put out with the sheets keep getting stolen, so unfortunately, we are unable to keep replenishing them. If you can kindly provide the sheet and donation with your own envelope, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

OCTOBER, MONTH OF THE ROSARY Why should you pray The Rosary? To chat with your real Mother - the best, most perfect, will-never-disappoint Mother. Lots of books and online resources to show you how.

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

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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REFERENCE FORMS Please email the Office and we will send you the relevant forms to complete after which we can decide on signing your Certificate. Certificates of Practice, as the name indicates, are for those practicing their faith. Please do not be surprised if you do not come to Mass and therefore do not get your form signed.

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.

CAKE SALE AND AFTER MASS COFFEE – HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR A MISSION TRIP TO RWANDA Next **Sunday, 1st November**, Mary Alves, a parishioner, will hold a cake sale after the 10am and 12 noon Masses to raise funds for a mission trip to Rwanda, supporting the Community Servants of Mary of the Heart of Jesus, the same sisters who recently visited our parish for the healing service. The sisters provide education, uniforms and meals for young children, visit the sick in hospitals and support vulnerable families. The three-week mission will involve helping at the school, visiting the hospital, support those needing medical treatment and distributing essentials to families in need. Do support this cause by buying a cake after Mass and keeping Mary and the mission team in your prayers. All contributions make a difference!

ADVENT CALENDARS The deadline for orders is next Sunday.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

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=

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO UNIVERSITIES Are you a student at one of the universities or colleges in London, or in Hatfield? Then Catholic Chaplaincy is for you! It's based at Newman House, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. There are Sunday Masses for students and regular events during the week and in many of the universities and colleges there's also campus-based Catholic societies and activities. Visit https://www.universitycatholic.net/ If you're studying outside London, then visit https://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk/

MONTHLY MEMORIAL PRAYER VIGIL for refugees and asylum-seekers On the 3rd Monday of every month outside the Home Office SW1P 4DF from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Praying for: *Those who died trying to reach the UK *Victims of current wars *Those in detention & who are homeless *The UK to be a more welcoming nation Sign up e-mails at homeofficevigil@gmail.com