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**

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

The Blessed Sacrament Church
157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR

All Saints

Year A – 1st November 2026 Missal Page 1066

MASS TIMES AND MASS INTENTIONS	
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST	
Sat 31st Oct 6pm	All Saints, Vigil Mass Danny Kelly RECOVERY and Theresa Doyle RECOVERY
Sun 1st Nov 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	All Saints Tommy Campbell RIP All Our Parishioners
Mon 2nd 10am 6pm	All Souls' Day The Holy Souls
Tue 3rd 10am	Feria or St Martin de Porres or St Winifride Alan Man BLESSINGS
Wed 4th 10am	St Charles Borromeo
Thu 5th 10am	Feria The Holy Souls
Fri 6th 10am	Feria Anna and Rudolf Cagalova RIP
Sat 7th 6pm	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass Eileen Jennings RD
Sun 8th Nov 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time All Parishioners All Our Benefactors Mark-Paul Donnelly BLESSINGS
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for all the deceased parishioners of St John's	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 1st Nov 9 am 11am	All Saints All Our Parishioners
Mon 2nd 12.30pm	All Soul's Day The Holy Souls
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for all the deceased parishioners of Blessed Sacrament	

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

Halloween and the Prayer for the Dead

This Sunday is All Saints Day, when we celebrate all saints, canonised and uncanonised. That might sound surprising but everyone in heaven is a saint – *has to be* a saint. It is the *one* vocation we have on earth, to be a saint. The Church canonises some she knows, to tell us, that we can be sure that these people are indeed in heaven: it is not simply that, but by the grace of God, they were already living heaven on earth. What does that mean? It is that they discovered the love of God in their life as something real, and having found that, they were able to give of themselves more and more to that incredible love. It was this love that made some of the canonised saints do seemingly mad things, like running away naked like Francis because he didn't need his Father's clothes, to Lawrence joking about being barbequed while being burnt for his faith, to Mother Teresa's intense love for some who were in such a horrid state, no one would come near them. This was not human effort, it was the effect of God's love. The canonised are those who let this love have its full effect on earth.

Most of us resist this love. Because love, by definition means being vulnerable, giving up control – and we all like to control our own lives. We are not sure the Father's Love is indeed such a good thing. When we die, having held to ourselves our wounds, our sins and pet peeves, our control, we will still be confronted by the Love of God in purgatory where we can finally see that this Love is all we ever desired. But it appears as a purifying fire in Purgatory, which burns what is not of God in us. It is not pleasant, much like a dentist's drill, but necessary. So, come November, we also pray for those who died having accepted God's love but maybe did not finish the process, whom we call the Holy Souls in purgatory. They are not condemned, and the Church holds them in high regard and asks the faithful to pray for them. Our prayers accelerate their healing, their union with God, where they will have their heart's desire. But while we pray for all with hope, it is also possible that we can reject this Love and hold onto our independence to such an extent on earth, that we refuse heaven itself in death. In some ways, the craze of Halloween (a twisting of 'All Hallow's Eve', the celebration of saints) is exactly glorifying this resistance. Halloween celebrates the 'un-dead'; believe me, you do not want to be 'un-dead' and certainly not want them in your homes. These are those who have no rest because they have refused the resting place of God's love. Finally, they are condemned to hell. But to us, who choose him today, our hearts can have that rest that Love alone grants, even now, as we await our eternal reward, Jesus Christ. **Fr Rajiv**

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

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WHAT'S ON

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
Thu 12th Nov, 7pm, Sunday Club AGM, St John's
Sun 14th Nov, after 6pm Mass, Fr Dan's leaving party, St John's
Sat 5th Dec, 1pm, Christmas Bazaar, Blessed Sacrament
Sun 6th Dec, 12 noon Mass, Rite of Acceptance, St John's

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

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 and that there are no electrical items nor 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. If you'd like to donate towards a leaving gift, please clearly mark your envelope with 'Fr Dan's leaving gift' and drop your donation in the offertory bag or through the secure letter box at the Presbytery or pass to Fr Rajiv or Fr Dan(!) after Mass. You can also gift using the card reader at the back of the church.

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 (you can also gift via the contactless card reader). 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.

ADVENT CALENDARS The deadline for orders is today, **1st November**. This is the last chance for 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

INDULGENCES FOR SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED On All Souls' Day a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, is granted to those who visit any parish church or public oratory and there recite the Our Father and the Creed once. Every day from 1st to 8th November inclusive, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The usual conditions for indulgences apply:
1. Only one plenary indulgence can be granted per day.
2. It is necessary to be in the state of grace, at least by completion of the work.
3. Freedom from attachment to sin, even venial sin, is necessary to gain a plenary indulgence. To be free of *attachment* to sin means that there is no particular sin in our life that we are *unwilling* to renounce. If this condition is lacking, the indulgence is only partial.
4. Holy Communion must be received each time the indulgence is sought.
5. Prayers must be recited for the intentions of the Holy Father on each day the indulgence is sought. No particular prayers are prescribed. One Our Father and Hail Mary suffice.
6. A sacramental confession must be made within a week of completion of the prescribed work. *One* confession made during the week, made with the intention of gaining all the indulgences, suffices.

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**.

CAKE SALE AND AFTER MASS COFFEE – HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR A MISSION TRIP TO RWANDA This **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!

SUNDAY CLUB AGM This takes place on **Thursday 12th November at 7pm** at the back of the church. This is open to everyone and especially to those that are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile cause. For those that would like to know more about The Sunday Club, please click on this link https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/islington/sunday-club/

REQUIESCAT IN PACE Carmel Malone o/w Ward funeral Mass will be celebrated at St John's on Friday 13th November at 12 noon.

HAVE YOU SAID HELLO to Shawn Sequeira and Joel Baskar? They're seminarians who are with us on Sundays as part of their pastoral placement. Shawn and Joel are part of the Augustinian order. They started their formation in India and are in the UK to continue their formation. They will be alternating between the parishes each month. Do say hello to them and give them a warm welcome!

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are inviting everyone on Wednesday 4 November at 6.30pm to Westminster Cathedral Hall, for a talk by Fr Hugh MacKenzie on *Magnifica Humanitas.* The talk will explore Pope Leo's reflections on the distinction between human and artificial intelligence, and what the rapid development of AI means for our understanding of humanity, morality and faith. As AI increasingly shapes our studies, working lives and relationships, this promises to be a fascinating and timely discussion. Drawing on Pope Leo's teaching, Fr Hugh will consider what makes human intelligence unique, why our God-given dignity cannot be reduced to data and algorithms, and the dangers of allowing technology to take the place of human judgement, authentic relationships or spiritual fulfilment. For further details and tickets visit https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/news-events/