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**

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 15th November 2026 Missal Page 433

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 14th Nov 6pm	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Vigil Mass All Our Parishioners
Sun 15th Nov 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Anne McLoughlin RIP All Our Benefactors James,Annie and Vincent McLoughlin RIP
Mon 16th 10am	St Edmund of Abingdon The Holy Souls
Tue 17th 10am	Feria or St Elizabeth of Hungary or St Hilda or St Hugh of Lincoln
Wed 18th 10am	Feria or The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul The Holy Souls
Thu 19th 10am	Feria Arthur Ward RIP
Fri 20th 10am	Feria Desmond Winchester ANNIV
Sat 21st 6pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Vigil Mass Bridget Mary Cooney RIP and Justina John-Lewis RIP
Sun 22nd 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe John Austin BLESSINGS Marie O'Sullivan RIP
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for all our benefactors	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 15th Nov 9 am 11am	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Mrs Marcelle De Brie ANNIV All Our Parishioners
Mon 16th 12.30pm	St Edmund of Abingdon The Holy Souls
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for the Holy Souls	

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

This Sunday we are treated to the beautiful reflection from Proverbs, on the woman of 'valour'. Proverbs is a fascinating book. It is part of the Wisdom books in the Bible. These books are trying to figure out and offer to us, in our day to day lives, what it means to live out as a person of faith in a complex world. What are we to do in the ethical dilemmas, we face, sometimes, every day? How do we bring up our children well? What is your attitude to work? And on and on. This poem we have today, closes out and brings together a lot of the themes in the Book of Proverbs. What is most fascinating however, is that from beginning to end Wisdom is portrayed in the feminine. At the beginning of the book, there is Lady Wisdom, existing before all things, wandering around, looking for faithful souls whom she can enter, calling those who are simple to heed her instruction. It is a portrayal of the Holy Spirit of God, who is also the Spirit of Wisdom. And at the end, there is the portrait of this woman, one concrete woman who is wise, who has made this wisdom her own. Sometimes people say this is sexist, and this woman is stereotyped and so on; but they've probably never read what it actually says! She is not a picture of someone who is subdued or lacking any kind of agency. It sings the praises of how she lives and what good she brings. What is this woman like? She is described as 'valiant', not 'perfect': the word translated so is the word used to describe the strength of fighting men, of an army. This is a strong woman – but it is an inner strength, resilience and courage which mark her. And her inner strength means that she is not afraid of the things that come across her life. She is resourceful, intelligent and abundantly kind. The secret to her inner strength is a fear – not a fear of the world, but the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is not a servile fear; it is a kind of deep reverence towards God. It is to know within that we are his creatures first and foremost and we owe God everything. And even more, that he has taken creatures like us and made us sons and daughters. It is not a permission to act the way we like, but to live out of a deep-seated gratitude and love. That means we are not afraid of men, of others be they more powerful or otherwise; we are not afraid of adverse circumstances should they visit us, because we know who we are. Contrast that to the servant in the gospel who is marked by fear: he also has a fear of the master but that is a servile fear, of punishment and a lack of knowledge of the goodness of the Lord. Because of this, he is unable to work, to be productive or do anything profitable. In return, when he faces the Master, what he gets is punishment, just as he expected! God wants to set us free from all our fears: go before him with love and reverence and you will find that you live freely with joy each day! Fr Rajiv

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

Mon 23rd Nov, 8pm, GIFT Zoom session for parents/carers only
Fri 27th Nov, 7pm, Russian Choral concert, St John's
Sat 5th Dec, 9.30am, GIFT Family Session, St John's
Sat 5th Dec, 1pm, Christmas Bazaar, Blessed Sacrament
Sun 6th Dec, 12 noon Mass, Rite of Acceptance, St John's
Sat 12th Dec, 3pm and 7.30pm, Christmas Carol Concert, 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 is **Sat 5th Dec** at 1pm. It will be a joyful afternoon. Every penny raised will directly support the parish 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! 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. Thanks.

FR DAN'S LEAVING PARTIES At Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, the hall was beautifully decorated and much love and effort was shown in the cakes and delicious savouries provided. Thank you to all that participated whether by donating their time and talent or by joining in. St John parishioners have the chance to party away after the 6pm Vigil Mass on **Saturday 14th November**. For both parishes, if you'd like to donate towards a leaving gift, please gift using the Dona card reader. Alternatively, clearly mark an envelope with 'Fr Dan's leaving gift' and drop your donation through the letter box at the Presbytery. **FR DAN'S LAST WEEKEND** is November 21/22nd so there's the opportunity to see him even after the parties and we will give him his gift/donations nearer that time.

FR SAM REPLACES FR DAN Fr Sam Amponsah is currently serving just down the road at the parish in Holloway, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and will be joining us at St John's and the Blessed Sacrament from November 25th. Fr Sam is from a Diocese in Ghana and currently on loan to Westminster Diocese. He is at this time halfway through his doctorate in theology in Rome. Do make him feel welcome, perhaps invite him home sometime for a meal!

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS. Sheets are available for you to make your list of your dear departed whom you would like us to pray for at Mass throughout November. Please place this in an envelope to make your offering or use the card reader at the back of the church.

JESUS YOUTH now meets every week on Thursdays at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to join this vibrant community in prayer and worship, **Thurs from 6 – 7:30 pm**.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH Thanks to the generosity of volunteers and Christine, the lead organiser, this will take place again. Catering for those that may find themselves alone or marginalised, it's a welcoming and warm event at St John the Evangelist Primary School. If you would like to donate your time or finances to this worthwhile cause, please email us at islington@rcdow.org.uk.

SERVE GOD AND EARN MONEY? We should all be serving God when we work or play but if you'd like to work for Him more directly, please take a look at the Diocesan jobs available https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS Monday **30th November** is the final Monday morning Mass at St John's for the foreseeable future. We understand that this will inconvenience some of you but unfortunately, this is the result of diminishing attendance and clergy. Please support our parishes by attending Mass and if you're an eligible bachelor, explore if God is calling you to the priesthood! The 12.30pm Monday Mass at Bl. Sacrament will continue so please come along – all welcome.

NEXT GIFT DATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FAMILIES A reminder that the next session is **Monday 23rd November** for parents/carers by Zoom at 8pm. The next in person session is on **Saturday 5th December** at 9.30am. Please be prompt and if you can't attend, it would be courteous to email Fr Rajiv to let him know. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S On Saturday **12th December,** St John's will host two **Christmas Carol concerts** by the London-based Voce Chamber Choir and Brass. **Family Carols begin at 3pm**: a tidy 60 minutes of well-known festive favourites with lots of singing, dancing and jingle bells! Suitable for all ages but especially fun for those with young children. Then (after the 6pm Vigil Mass) at **7.30pm, there's a magical programme of Christmas music both traditional and modern**, complete with seasonal readings and rousing congregational carols. Tickets for both concerts can be bought on the door, subject to availability - but to secure your places, please book in advance at vocechamberchoir.org.

HAVE YOU SAID HELLO to Shawn Sequeira and Joel Baskar, our seminarians on Sundays as part of their pastoral placement? They 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 give them a warm welcome!

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND Across the Diocese today, we're collecting for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If you can, please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. There are envelopes at the back of the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift and become a **Patron** by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** or use the QR Code on the envelopes and posters.

ADRIAN OUR ORGANIST IS 40 YEARS OLD He's a bit older than that but he's been the resident organist at St John's for 40 years. Big hearty congratulations to Adrian and many thanks to his brilliant organisation from the concert series to the Christmas and Easter music and lots more.

ADVENT ONLINE RETREAT December 7th- 11th from 10 to 10.30am. A prayerful half-hour every morning with a different speaker each day. Contact Eddie Gilmore gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SEMINAR The task of ending violence against women requires meaningful and creative collaboration across different parts of the church, with the wider movement for gender justice, with those from different faiths and with others across the world. In this seminar - organised by CSAN in collaboration with Safe In Faith - we will share examples of working collaboratively and discuss what makes collaboration meaningful in the struggle to end violence against women. Meet online Monday 16th November 11am to 1pm.
https://csan.charitysuite.com/events/tcrhksr7?mc_cid=d18a93a760&mc_eid=0fad2221e3

CATHOLIC HEROINES OF THE ENGLISH REFORMATION Learn about the unknown Catholic women who helped save the Faith in England. Tuesday 1st December, 7pm (after 6pm Mass & Benediction) in St Wilfrid's Hall at the Oratory, SW7 2RP. RSVP cenacletotheholyspirit@yahoo.com.The talk is free, but all donations go to support the Fathers of the London Oratory.