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**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Year A – 22nd November 2026 Missal Page 437

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 21st Nov 6pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Vigil Mass Bridget Mary Cooney RIP and Justina John-Lewis RIP
Sun 22nd Nov 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe All Our Parishioners John Austin BLESSINGS Marie O'Sullivan RIP
Mon 23rd 10am	Feria or St Clement I or St Columban The Holy Souls
Tue 24th 10am	St Andrew Trần Dũng-Lạc Bronson Fernandes RIP
Wed 25th 10am	St Catherine of Alexandria MASS CANCELLED
Thu 26th 10am	Feria Sebastian Fernandes RIP
Fri 27th 10am	Feria Martha Fernandes RIP
Sat 28th 6pm	First Sunday of Advent, Vigil Mass Peggy and Martin Walsh RIP
Sun 29th 10am 12 noon 6.30pm	First Sunday of Advent All Our Parishioners St Joseph's Rosary Group INT Michael Moriarty RIP
Sanctuary lamp at St John's is burning for the intention of Neary Pollak	
BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Sun 22nd Nov 9 am 11am	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Phuong Phan THANKSGIVING All Our Parishioners
Mon 23rd 12.30pm	Feria or St Clement I or St Columban The Holy Souls
Sanctuary lamp at Blessed Sacrament is burning for thanksgiving to the volunteers	

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 Tue, 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

The last Gospel reflection from Fr Dan…

When Pope Pius XI introduced the solemnity of Christ the King in his encyclical *Quas primas* (in the first) in 1925, the world was in a very dark place. The First World War had only recently ended, and the threat of atheistic regimes was threating not just the church but the world. Pius XI in the opening paragraph points out that *"… these manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics…"* Thus, the solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe was instated to reassure Christians that while regimes and governments come and go, Christ will reign forever. This ~~is~~ in turn poses an interesting question to all Christians, who is king of our hearts? Who is king of our lives?

This is a question I have pondered a lot recently, especially after my leaving parties where Fr Rajiv so helpfully told you all that I had three great loves: Arsenal, burgers and God! Now while I don't disagree with my parish priest's assessment, I think the order is wrong, it is always God first, then Arsenal and burgers! The proof of this was that, as many of you know, I celebrated Masses at the weekends even when these clashed with Arsenal matches! Even on the glorious day of the victory parade, I celebrate Masses in the parish first and then celebrated Arsenal's long-awaited return as the Premier League Champions.

During my time here in Blessed Sacrament and St John's I have always tried to put God first in all that I do, from how I celebrated the Mass, to Confessions, to my work in the primary school, to my visits to local care homes and housebound parishioners. Of course, there have been times when I have gotten things wrong, times when God has not been first, but these moments have, thankfully, been few and far between. I can be sure of this because of the lovely, warm and kind messages of thanks from all of you, for what I have done during my year here. Your words of praise and thanks are greatly appreciated and have re-affirmed me in my vocation as a priest and reminded me that whatever happens in my new post as parish priest, as long as Christ is the king of my heart, as long as my number one priority is doing God's will where I am, that is all I can ask of myself.

Since I arrived here you have all made me feel welcome, especially the pupils and staff at St John Evangelist Primary School. You have also all put up with my humour and end of Mass football comments (*which I know has been trying for fans of other football teams, especially Tottenham and Manchester United!*), but your patience and goodwill with all of this has made this year one of the most enjoyable and delightful years of my ministry! Thank you for all your support and prayers, please be assured of mine. Keep Christ as the king of your hearts, let him be your shepherd and guide in this life and I promise you, as I have discovered since becoming his priest, there will be nothing you will want.

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 25th Nov, 10am Mass cancelled, St John's
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. 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.

MASS CANCELLATION We apologise for any inconvenience but the **10am Mass on Wednesday 25th** at St John's is cancelled due to a priest not being available, as we await our new asst.priest Fr Sam. **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!

PRAYERS FOR THE HOLY SOULS Throughout November, we pray for the Holy Souls. Usually two Masses each week are dedicated to Holy Souls. If you would like to add the names of your loved ones to the list in front of the altar, please write them on the purple sheets at the back of the church, place this in an envelope with a suitable offering and drop it off at the Presbytery letterbox.

AN ASSORTMENT OF GOD RELATED JOBS 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/

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.

CONFIRMATION If you're between 14 and 17 years of age and wish to be confirmed after Easter 2027, then please stay awake for the good news of enrolment. This will be announced shortly.

DONATIONS FOR SUNDAY CLUB/CRYPT AT ST JOHN'S Over the years, the number of items in the crypt that have disbelievingly disappeared, is quite jaw dropping – from tiny teaspoons through to titan tables and everything in between, including chairs. If you would like to donate crockery, cutlery, tables or chairs, we would be very grateful but please let us know first by email. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time using envelopes at the back of the church or online at rcdow.org.uk/SRP or via the QR Code on the poster. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

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.

WHAT A TREAT, 3 RETREATS COMING UP

- 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
- ADVENT RETREAT IN PERSON Join the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom for its Advent Lecture on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm at St Patrick's, Soho Square. Mgr John Armitage, Master of the Guild, will explore what a parish truly is, and how each of us can help bring it joyfully back to life. Doors open at 7pm for talk, cheese, wine and a social. All welcome. Book here https://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events
- ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG PERSONS Young Adults Advent Retreat Day with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 5th December 2026, 10am – 6pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • Mass and social time. £5 registration fee/ subsidised student places available on request. Register now by emailing: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

WINTRY HISTORY WALKS Join the knowledgeable and entertaining Joanna Bogle for a mind expanding and physically scintillating walk on Friday November 27th, starting at 6pm from the Church of the Most Precious Blood, London Bridge SE1. A walk across the river to St john Henry Newman's birthplace in the City. Then on Tuesday December 1st, meet at 3pm on the steps of Westminster Cathedral, SW1 for a walk through St James Park and on to Whitehall and Westminster Abbey. For more info http://www.catholichistorywalks.com