



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto:gaskoloth@hotmail.com))

**Masses: Sunday:** (7pm Saturday) 8am, 10am, 12noon, 1.30 (Polish), 7pm.

**Holydays:** 6.30pm vigil, 9.30am, 11am, 6.30pm

**Weekdays:** 9.30am, 6.30pm. **Saturday:** 9.30am, 7pm. **Bank Holiday:** 9.30am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday** 10-10.30am, 6.30 -6.45pm

**Weekdays:** immediately after Mass (on request)

## 1st July 2018 – 13th Sunday of the Year ANOTHER FORGOTTEN WAY: DIAKONIA

The growth of early Christianity was a remarkable phenomenon. At the time of Jesus' death there were hardly a few hundred followers. But by 380 A.D. it galloped up to fifteen million and conquered the mighty Roman Empire and replaced the banners of 'Pax Romana' with 'Pax Christi'! How did they achieve it? What really contributed to this growth? What were the practices that were essential to their way of life? Last few weeks we were dwelling upon these Forgotten Ways. Didache or learning was about emulating Jesus. And Leitourgia or worship was not only a way of remembering God's goodness and life but also resisting the empire.

Today we are looking at the practice called in Greek Diakonia; meaning service. And so, a deacon would mean a servant. What does it look like to practice Diakonia? Not simply some humanitarian service or some philanthropical service but deeply Christian service.

The Upper Room of John 13 gives us a blue print. So, it is the Last Supper. And then Jesus stands up and takes a towel. He washes their feet and he dries them with the towel. It was the task of a slave. Then Peter speaks up. "Not my feet Jesus. I can't let you do this." And Jesus says to Peter, "Unless I wash your feet you can't be my disciple. This is why I have come; to serve." In the gospel of John there is no Eucharist - episode. And there are no moral imperatives as well. There is only one commandment. "Love one another as I have loved you." Diakonia! It is the humble and silent act of selfless love that seeks to restore the wholeness of others and our world. How do you fulfil this commandment? You are loved by God not according to what you have done or what you have failed to do but by the grace of God alone; and it is unconditional.

Bono U2 in one of his interviews relates about his Faith: "Look! it is a mind-blowing concept that God who created the universe might be looking for company, a real relationship with people, but the thing that keeps me on my knees is the difference between Grace and Karma. . . At the centre of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know what you put out comes back to you: an eye for eye, a tooth for tooth, or in Physics. . . every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. . . Karma is at the very heart of the universe. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "as you reap, so you will sow" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts. . . the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed; because I have done a lot of stupid stuff." The grace of God is the next powerful reality in the universe. It changes everything.

Unless you let me wash your feet you'll never know the incredible breadth and depth of love I have for you. We can only love if we have been loved. So the first part of Diakonia is to stop saying I am not worthy of it. To be silent and to receive. The second way is to simply go out and do it. St. Augustine said there are two things in Jesus' love. The first is that "Jesus loved each one he had ever met as if there were none other in all the world to love." In other words Jesus radically individualized love for the people. Jesus saw the particularity in every person. He paid attention to the uniqueness of their stories. "Jesus loved all as he loved each." Even with all that particularity of love he also loved with an incredibly universal spirit. And wherever he went community happened, enemies became friends, and differences were overcome. Diakonia is indeed a festival of Grace.

Fr. George C.P.

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**We remember those who have died recently** – Carolen (Cassie) Frampton (funeral 12 noon Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July), Sr. Bernardine OSA, Hallie Hewitt, Mamie Bourke; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Mary Barulis, Ivan Zmertych.

### **St Joseph's Primary School After School Club – Playworker:**

Due to an increase in demand for After School Club places, St Joseph's School Governors are seeking to appoint Playworkers who have experience and/or qualifications of working with children. We are particularly interested in applicants who have experience in EYFS and/or who have valid qualifications for working in Early Years. Please email the school office for further information or to request an application pack on 020 7272 1270 or email [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk). The Closing Date is Midday, Monday 9th July 2018 and interviews shortly after. We will offer free After School Club places to children currently attending St Joseph's School. Salary: Range; £7,837 – £8,247. Hours: Monday – Friday 3:00pm - 6:00pm Term-time only.

### **100 Club Results:**

The June Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 103 and the winners were: £400 Christina Kennedy (95), £100 Anne Rea (177), £50 P.N. Robinson (124). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The July draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,695. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. The annual Peter's Pence collection for Papal charities will be taken up after all Masses this weekend.

### **Organ Recital:**

The next in our season of monthly organ recitals will be given by organist Adrian Gunning on Thursday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. Admission is free and donations to our organ fund will be welcome. As an extra, and as part of the first Highgate Arts Festival, you are invited to stay on for refreshments and for a short celebration of poetry and music, featuring works by Vivaldi, Rutter, TS Eliot, John Betjeman and Gerard Manley Hopkins among others.

### **World Youth Day 2019:**

The next World Youth Day takes place in Panama, January 2019. The diocesan Youth Ministry team will be taking a group of young adults to Panama, from ages 18-35. If there are any young people in the parish who would be interested in joining the pilgrimage, they are invited to contact [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). Bursaries of up to 50% of the cost are available. Spaces are limited. Hence, interested youth are requested to contact Youth Ministry as soon as possible.

### **Mary's Meals Clothes Collection:**

Only 1 week to go before Mary's Meals will be here at St Joseph's to collect all your unwanted clothing/bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*), on the morning of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to church by 12 o'clock where the charity will be here to pick them up. Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year!

### **Children's Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> August), near Colchester in Essex. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

### **Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress: 7-9 September:**

Apologies to anyone who experienced difficulties booking tickets through the Bishops' Conference online portal at <http://unbouncepages.com/adoremus2018/> The issues have now been resolved and bookings can be made until Tuesday, 31 July – this is an absolute deadline. The Friday symposium is fully booked. You can add your name to a waiting list at [adoremus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adoremus@rcdow.org.uk) but there is no guarantee of further tickets. There are tickets remaining for the main event on the Saturday, when the internationally-known Bishop Robert Barron will give two keynote addresses and Cardinal Nichols will give a reflection and lead us in Exposition and Benediction. There is a fee of £40 per delegate for the Saturday. There is no fee for the Sunday, but please still submit a booking form online for a place at one of the two Solemn Masses at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

### **In case you are admitted to hospital:** (*Our regular reminder!*)

In light of current data protection legislation, please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also let them know that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.