



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@yahoo.com) Fr. George (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)

2nd June 2019 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

No Half Measures!

At first I walked by the sign in the shop window with barely a glance at it. It was the sort of notice that I had seen many times before, particularly in book shops, which used to be among my favourite haunts for hanging out in if I had a few free hours. I could spend hours in bookshops, browsing through the various sections, and frequently coming away with 5 or 6 volumes that I would “get around to reading as soon as I get the opportunity”. In my younger days I would get around to reading them, but gradually I was finding I had less and less time, and had more and more books that I hadn’t read at all – so now I tend to stay clear of temptation, unless there is a specific book that I am looking for. But that’s neither here nor there. To get back to the story, I continued on a little down the street while gradually it was dawning on me that this time it wasn’t a bookshop, or a music shop, or even a clothes shop. “No,” I said to myself, “it couldn’t have been! That would be ridiculous.” I had a good laugh to myself, and made to go on. But at this stage curiosity was getting the better of me, and I knew I would have to go back and check it out.

No, I wasn’t mistaken – it actually was a shoe shop. I looked all over the sign for the word “pair”, but it definitely wasn’t there! If I had been a braver person I might have gone in to enquire whether the person responsible for the signs was an idiot, or had a great sense of humour. I decided to give them the benefit of the doubt, and continued on my way, smiling to myself as I thought how clever a marketing ploy it would be, and on the other hand how much fun one could have with it. Maybe it is a common sign in shoe shops, but I had never ever seen it before. After all, who would want to buy one shoe – apart from some poor unfortunate who had lost one leg? But that’s what the shop was offering – “Buy one, get one free!” I wonder was there a guarantee that the one you got free would match the one you paid for?

We live in a world of slogans and catchphrases. Many of them are not meant to be taken too literally, but are simply designed to grab your attention. A famous one in Dublin years ago was the sign on many of the buses that simply read “GIGFY”. There was no explanation, no illustration that might have given a hint as to its meaning. The intention, of course, was to get people wondering and asking what it meant, and in that way keep their product to the fore. (And it worked - see, I remember it, and I don’t even like the stuff!) Talking of signs from my youth – I remember there used to be notices all over the place, especially on gables of buildings, which said “Post no bills”. As a well-meaning and helpful child, I could never understand why my parents wouldn’t allow me to put one on our letter-box!

The trouble with signs is that they can be misinterpreted so easily. And slogans are very often just attention-grabbing and are not really meant to be taken too literally. It would be very sad if all those phrases that encapsulate our Christian way of life – “Love one another as I have loved you”; “No greater love can a person have than.....”; “I will be with you always....” – simply became slogans. They’re not like political promises – trotted out when needed, but no real expectation of follow-up. They may not be easy to live up to, but that’s why the Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit. As we’re in the season of Confirmations and First Communions, and indeed Baptisms and Marriages, the air is full of hope and enthusiasm. We pray that the Spirit can help us all share in those positive feelings. Buy one, get one free – I ask you!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Janet Baker, Stephen Friday, John Kelly; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Bernadette Martin, Michael Breslin, Elizabeth Lyons, Rosario Gallo, Carmel Hogan, Otto Keller.

Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning this morning immediately after the 10am Mass. Why not delay a little and enjoy a little time with other members of the Parish in the Red Room, or in the sunshine in the garden outside.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch next Sunday, 9th June, at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, (summer will be here by then!) spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is our third year to celebrate Pentecost in this way. Our celebration is designed to encourage people to build up a real sense of community in our Parish, by getting to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. If you were one of the lucky ones who managed to be here for previous celebrations you will remember what a wonderful success they were, and what an amazing variety of food was contributed. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country of origin, and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,785. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

100 Club:

The May Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 125 and the winners were: £400 Member no. 73, £100 Angela Maxwell (171), £50 Chiara Mayer-Rieckh (142). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 23rd June. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Volunteering Opportunity in Lourdes:

Could you be a Lourdes helper? The Lourdes pilgrimage team are looking to recruit volunteers to lend medical and practical support for the pilgrimage from 20th to 26th July 2019. If interested, please contact the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office at Vaughan House on 0207 798 9173 or email westminsterfrai@gmail.com or lourdes@rcdow.org.uk.

Mary's Meals Clothes Collection:

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon this Sunday, 2nd June, to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

Highgate Festival Ceili:

St Joseph's Parish Centre will be hosting a Ceili on Friday June 14th, 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm as part of the Highgate Festival. Live band, great caller who knows how to lead beginners as well as experts, home made food and we're also hoping for an Irish Dancing display. Bring your dancing shoes or come along to listen and for the Craic! All ages welcome. £7.50 early bird tickets/concessions Tickets £10 on the night- any money raised will go towards the heating system to the Parish Centre. For tickets please contact Cheryl - felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.

Caritas Volunteer Fair:

The Caritas Volunteer Service will be holding its annual Volunteers' Fair showcasing volunteering opportunities from across the Diocese. Those attending will have the chance to chat with different charities and find out more about their work and the roles available and hear talks and testimonials from different organisations. The event will be on **Saturday 8th June**, from **1:00-3:00pm**, at **St Aloysius' Parish Hall, Phoenix Road, Euston, NW1 1TA**. To get your free ticket, email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, call 020 7931 6077, or search the event title on Eventbrite

The God Who Speaks

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has designated 2020 a year of focus on *The God Who Speaks*. In preparation they are conducting a short survey about how Catholics see and use the Bible. They would like as many people as possible to complete the survey so that they have a snapshot of the current situation. They will repeat the survey at the end of 2020 and compare the results. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LDJBN5Y>.