



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 September 2018 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE NEW ST. JOSEPH'S

Those of you who know me will know that I am not gifted with the greatest memory in the world – in fact one might say that I am quite severely challenged in the memory department. And yes, I have tried all those ‘memory-improving’ schemes – you know the kind of thing – “link the name you’re trying to remember to your favourite vegetable and imagine blue hair growing out its mouth and five legs, and that will bring it to mind straight away”. Not for me, I’m afraid – I’m just left wondering what’s a blue five-legged vegetable got to do with anything?

So it took an email from a class-mate of mine (who, incidentally, probably was given my share, in addition to his own, when God was distributing memory) to remind me of a journey I started out on fifty-six years ago today. Dressed like an undertaker, in a black suit, and wearing one of those hats that the gangsters used to wear in the old movies as they walked into the warehouse to machine-gun every bottle on the premises, I set out from my home in Dublin to the Passionist novitiate in the north of Ireland. Little did I know what the next 56 years were going to hold for me! Little did I dream that I would ever be stationed in Highgate – if only I’d known I could have gone and studied up on the multiple complexities of cricket while the ole brain was still capable of absorbing fresh material.

Anyway, welcome – or welcome back, as the case may be! Today we set out on another journey, as it were, as we begin a new year in St. Joseph's Parish. A very special welcome to those who have recently arrived in Highgate, and are still wondering what kind of parish they have landed in. A very special welcome back to those who are returning after Summer holidays, eager once again to get stuck in to the joys of their normal routines! Who knows what the year ahead is going to hold for us?

But then, in St. Joseph's we don't believe in sitting around and waiting to see what will happen to us – in modern terms, we like to be ‘pro-active’. We have been blessed down the years with people who are not only talented, but anxious to use their talents to build up our Parish as a welcoming, joyous community, celebrating and working together to make our world a better place. I'm not going to give a listing of all the wonderful achievements of the Parish over the years, or even last year – this is a new year, and in a sense a new parish. Our challenge this year is not simply to be better than last year, but to be the best possible Parish we can be this year – we're looking forward, not back.

So, in welcoming you to St. Joseph's, I'm not simply inviting you to ‘fit in’, as it were, with the St. Joseph's of the past, but to actively play your part in building the St. Joseph's of the future. Taking our lead from today's Gospel, yes, as a parish we have many wonderful traditions extending back over the years, but we don't allow those traditions to hamper our desire to be ready to face the challenge of an ever new and changing world. And one of the best ways of keeping our parish life fresh is by encouraging more and more people to be active participants. If you didn't get around to it last year, well, now's your chance. Have a word with one of the priests, or a member of the Parish Council, and let them know how you would like to be involved. Do us the honour of taking an active part in St. Joseph's! (Or else don't have me go looking for my black hat and machine gun!)

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We remember those who have died recently – Frances Mary Daly (funeral 11.00am Thursday 13th September), Kathleen Crowe; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Alice Ryan, Arthur Anderson.

Welcome Back:

It seems only the other day that we were looking forward to the holidays, and here we are having almost already forgotten how we spent them! Anyway, let me take this opportunity on behalf of all the community here to welcome you back, and also to extend a very warm welcome to the many new people who have come to our parish over the past few months. Whether you stayed at home, or travelled, I do hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable time and have your batteries re-charged as we face into a new year.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs will be available in the porch of the church from next Sunday. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,151. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks again for your generous support of our parish.

Organ Recital:

The next in our season of monthly organ recitals will be given by our own organist Alberto Brigandi, together with violinist Alberto Sanna, on Thursday evening, 6th September at 7.30pm. Admission is free and donations to our organ fund will be welcome. (The recital by Mark James, cancelled earlier in the year due to bad weather, has been rescheduled for Thursday 4th October).

100 Club Results:

The August Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 102 and the winners were: £400 Michael Lacy (69), £100 Jacinta Lobo (8), £50 Ita Watters (39). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The September draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 23rd September. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Christian Meditation:

The Christian Meditation Group will resume this week at 7.00pm on Friday 7th September.

Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 20th September:

The next of our regular afternoon tea socials will be taking place on Wednesday September 20th.

Parish Youth Group:

The Youth Group for ages 13-17 years old will reconvene on Friday, 14th September. If you are interested in being part of this group it's very important to try and attend this session, where, among other things, we will be trying to plan out a program of meetings and activities for the coming year. Some refreshments will also be available to help the social and planning activities. It would be great to see some new faces so please do join us if you have not been involved before and help shape the way forward! The gathering will run 7pm till 9pm and we ask you to use the entrance on Highgate Hill (just down from the traffic lights) when you arrive. Please contact Mirek on mirek17@hotmail.com for further details.

Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress: 7-9 September:

For those who would like to take part in the *Adoremus* Eucharistic Congress, but are unable to travel to Liverpool to do so, Corpus Christi parish in Maiden Lane will be hosting a Day with the Lord on **Saturday 8th September** which will coincide with the Congress itself. The day begins at 7am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 12 noon there will be a Solemn Mass of the Nativity of Our Lady. At 4:30pm, there will be a led Holy Hour with devotions by Msgr Ronald Knox, which will end with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are most welcome to join in with all, or part of the day.

Parish Centre Ceili Mix:

The Monthly Céili Mix is on next Friday 7th September, in the Parish Centre as usual. Open to all ages and Nationals. We have a variety of dances to keep everyone happy. With Céilí, sets, waltzes and quick-step. Starting @ 8pm. Music by Tony Kearney Band "one of the best". Only 5£ for adults.