



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

3rd February 2019 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Let's Not Get Silly!

It's been one of those weeks that in my younger days I would have regarded as nice and gentle, but now in my more senior years reminds me that I don't have the energy that I used to have. Not that I'm in any way complaining. It is my hope that I will one day – a long time from now, of course – die with my pastoral boots on, rather than having spent the last ten years plopped in front of a TV, waiting to be told it's prayer time, meal time or time to go to bed.

Monday was relatively gentle. Having said Mass in the morning, and having a meeting with the foreman on the works in the church to let him know your decision on the benches, a visit to our bank in Hampstead was necessary, after which I needed to order the food that would be needed for the pre-marriage course on Saturday. As I was also doing cover for the chaplain in the Whittington I ended up having to go there to see a patient and family who had asked to see a priest. The day was rounded off by seeing a couple who were planning on getting married.

I'm not going to bore you with all the details of the other days, but Tuesday saw a chunk of my time in the morning down in St. Joseph's school, and a meeting of Churches Together in Highgate here in the afternoon. Wednesday morning saw me down in the school again in the morning, followed by a meeting with the architect to discuss progress on the church works. Thursday I try to keep aside as my day off, generally spent admiring the beauty of nature just off the fairways of England, but as luck would have it, a blanket of snow meant no golf this week, so an opportunity to catch up on the myriad of emails awaiting attention. Friday, being the first Friday of the month, began with mass for the staff down in the school. This was followed by a visit from the sound engineers to sort out the problems with the sound system. Just in time for the funeral around mid-day, and the subsequent visit to the cemetery, which, unlike the golf course, was not closed because of the snow. And the evening involved a visit to Muswell Hill to pick up the food ordered on Monday for Saturday. And, finally, Saturday was spent with the Pre-Marriage course, after which I had to sit down and think what could I write for the bulletin?

There were lots of joyous moments in that week, but my favourite was from the year 2 pupil who was learning about reconciliation, which we know is pronounced re-con-silly-ay-shun, and who told me that it was the sacrament in which – the name says it all – when we have done something 'silly' we say we are sorry. Say what you look, but I think that's as good a definition as I have heard from any theological scholar!

Our Gospel today finds a lot of people being very silly in Jesus' home town of Nazareth. They weren't the first people who thought that if you don't like the message, then the way to deal with it is to get rid of the messenger. How silly is that? But is it any more silly than the attitude of many people today that the message of Christ no longer has relevance in our modern world? We are really no different than the Nazarenes of Jesus' time. We constantly need to be challenged in the beliefs we take for granted. The world has changed; we change; but the core message remains the same. We are called to be a sacramental people – people who are a sign to the world of the message of Christ - that truly loving others is the only way to peace and happiness in our world. Anything else is just being silly!

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We remember those who have died recently – Eileen Healey (funeral 12.30pm Monday 11th February), William Patrick Mangan (funeral 12.30pm Friday 22nd February), Edmond Doherty, Dorothy Breen, Nellie McNamara; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Pat McKendry, Jim Lyons, Raymond Hogan, Joan Farmer, Rosaleen Fox.

Coffee Morning:

You are invited to join us for our Coffee morning in the Red Room immediately after the 10am mass this Sunday. It's easiest to enter through the sacristy at the top left of the church. All welcome, young and old.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,583. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

100 Club – New Members needed!

Over the last nearly 30 years, St. Joseph's 100 Club has contributed over £300,000 towards the cost of maintenance and improvements to our church. The last drive for recruiting new members took place as far back as 2012. As you might well imagine, in the time since then many people have moved away from this area – some even into the next world! – so the membership has been gradually decreasing. I'm not sure why it was originally call a 100 Club, as full membership would have been 200 members, and we are considerably short of that number at the moment. For £10 a month you enter a draw, with prizes currently of £400, £100 and £50 with the other half of the proceeds going to parish funds. There will be speakers at Masses next weekend to explain more about the scheme, and who will be available afterwards to talk to if you'd like to know more. Or there will be leaflets in the porch or you can email Ed Tierney at joseph.highgate@gmail.com

Are You Slovenian?

This year the World Day of Prayer, which is an international inter-denominational event – organised by women, but open to all - will be held on the morning of March 1st and the service will be written by the women of Slovenia. We are looking for any parishioner from that country who would like to be involved? Contact Jotraffordowen@blueyonderco.uk

Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019:

Proclaim Spring Gatherings are for laity and clergy from Parishes, Schools, Youth and chaplaincies and all who are involved or interested in local evangelisation. The events are free, with coffee & tea etc. provided. Please bring your own lunch. With Bishop Nicholas Hudson, **Saturday 9th February**, 9.30am – 3.00pm, 4 Lady Margaret Road, Kentish Town NW5 2XT OR Saturday 23rd February, 9.30am – 3.00pm 2 Lukin Street E1 0AA. To register e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk Telephone contact is 0207 798 9152

Oh Crumbs!

Did you know that 24 million slices of bread are wasted on average every day in the UK? To help you cut back on any bread waste at home, Keep Britain Tidy are hosting a **FREE** cookery workshop on Wednesday 13th February, 5:00pm at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School! Come along to the workshop to see a demonstration by our professional chefs of how to make bread and butter pudding, before getting the chance to make and eat a delicious panzanella salad for yourself! The workshop is open to all, so be sure to spread the word! Bring along some Tupperware too as you'll likely be able to take some tasty food away with you. Spaces are limited. Book your place now! <https://bit.ly/2SVQ62S> or for further information email the school office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 6th May 2019. £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

Cold Weather Packs for Homeless:

The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing a thermal hat, gloves, two pairs of socks, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, pen and information sheet to people on the streets. Please consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

Works in Church:

After last week's informal survey of opinion you will all – except for three! – be happy to know that it has been agreed that the benches will be done in the lighter stain, with a gloss finish. This should considerably help to brighten the church, and also make for easier maintenance. Thanks to all who took the time and trouble to express their opinions.