



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@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)

## 3rd November 2019 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Don't Waste The Pain!

I know what my family would have said to me if I had been playing on the English rugby team today, and had got beaten in the World Cup Final by South Africa – or by anybody else, for that matter. I fully understand that it would have come out of a deep faith, and an appreciation of the time of the year we're at. Maybe some of yourselves have a similar religion-orientated background, and will yourselves remember the phrase. Having said that, I don't think I would go near any of the actual English team after today's match and suggest to them that they should – "Offer it up for the Holy Souls"! The phrase reflected the belief that no suffering should be wasted – try to get some good from it. And, all jokes aside, I do hope that this historic victory for South Africa will be beneficial in helping to bring together a society that has for so long been badly divided, and help them appreciate the value of working together for the good of all their people, and indeed, of the whole world. A lesson that would not be lost on any of us.

Our gospel this week-end again involves a tax collector – remember we had one of those last week whose prayer from the back of the church, but from the bottom of his heart, was more acceptable to God than that of the rather smug Pharisee. And this week again the tax collector is being presented in a rather positive light, despite the fact that it is brought to our attention that he is a wealthy man – which usually meant that he was probably extorting excessive taxes from people. Another unusual feature of the story is the picture of a grown man climbing a tree to get a view of Jesus as He was passing along the way.

We're generally inclined to see this story as one of conversion – that the tax collector was so impressed with Jesus, particularly that He was willing to visit and eat with him, that he resolved from then to reform his ways. But some scholars believe that the words of the tax collector were spoken in the present tense. In that case he would be describing how he actually behaved, rather than expressing his intentions for the future. So Zacchaeus would be saying, for instance "Half of my possessions I give to the poor; and if I find I have taken more than I should, I pay back fourfold." In other words, although he is a tax collector and apparently rich, he is, in fact, a very good man. Jesus recognised that when he invited himself into Zacchaeus's house. The crowd, however, judged Zacchaeus simply by his profession. He is a tax collector, *therefore* he is an evil and corrupt man. And he was treated as an outcast not to be approached by any decent person. A perfect example of stereotyping and of judging people's 'holiness' by their external observance of religious ritual.

But Jesus always sees beyond the external to the potential inside. He praised the repentant tax collector in last week's Gospel as against the proud and arrogant Pharisee. Today he praises a tax collector whom he knows to be a good and generous person. He sees a unique individual and not just a stereotype. How often are we blinded by the stereotype of a person's profession, or race, or religion and fail to see the unique individual inside? "For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" — the lost include those regarded as sinners and those who are marginalised by so-called respectable society.

They are the people to whom we Christians, as disciples of Jesus, are also expected to pay special attention. We need to be particularly careful about pre-judging people, about slotting them into stereotyped compartments. Stereotypes do not really exist. Only unique individuals with unique needs exist. Jesus saw, not a tax collector, but the unique person, Zacchaeus. And, fortunately, that's how he looks on each one of us, and invites us to look on one another. Pre-judging, like predicting, is a dangerous game!

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**We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Netta Windle, Peter McCaffery, Martin & Mary Joyce, Agnes McCormack, Johanna Joyce, Mary O'Shea.

### **Coffee Morning:**

There will be a coffee morning immediately after the 10am mass today, in the Red Room. Why not come along and enjoy a few moments with your fellow-parishioners?

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,715. 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.

### **St. Joseph's School – spaces for 3 year-olds:**

We are very blessed as a Parish to have a truly wonderful Primary and Nursery School linked to our Parish. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has an individual identity that combines traditional values with a modern vibrant vision. The school is an Ofsted and Diocesan rated 'Outstanding' school, with an ethos based on faith, community and a true partnership between home, school, and Parish. St Joseph's is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support them in their faith development. We currently have spaces in our Little Gems Nursery Class for children who have just turned 3. If you are interested in your child joining our Little Gems Nursery Class now or later on this academic year please pick up an application form at the back of the church or from the school office. [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk). You are also more than welcome to come along to our open day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 9:15am, no need to book just come along.

### **November Dead List:**

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are now available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd November. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2020 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms can be obtained by emailing [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Parish Bazaar – November 16th:**

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 16th of November just **two weeks away**. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl, [felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com). And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

### **Grand Raffle:**

Whether you can manage to come to the Bazaar or not, you can still support us by buying tickets for the Raffle - the tickets are now on sale at only £1 each for the Grand Raffle which will be held on the day.

### **Celebration for Fr. Pat:**

As announced previously, Fr. Pat will be leaving us at the end of November, after 11 years with us here in Highgate. His last Sunday will be 24<sup>th</sup> November when there will be a special farewell Mass at 12.00, followed by a bring & share lunch in the Monastery. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a dish to the table. Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

### **100 Club:**

The September Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 124 and the winners were: £400 Maureen Bocking (129), £100 Salome Golding (76), £50 Mrs. P. Kelly (121). Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Part-Time Jobs in St. Joseph's School:**

The Governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery are seeking to appoint experienced playworkers to supervise children after school. We are particularly interested in applicants who have experience in EYFS who have valid qualifications for working in Early Years. The salary is based on term-time only scale 3 (8,432.89 actual per year). 15 hours per week: 3:00pm – 6:00pm Monday – Friday and required as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying, please contact the school office [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk) for an application form and job description. The closing date is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.