



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE
Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

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

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)

4th November 2018 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time SNAP TO IT!

I knew it was a mistake before I began. Still I went ahead. Experience should have taught me that the temptation is always too strong. "It won't happen this time – I'll exercise a little bit of self-control." But the same thing happens every time. Granted, it's more fun when there's somebody else to share the experience with, but even on my own it can be a very pleasant way to spend some time. And before I know it, a couple of hours, that I could ill afford at the time, has passed

I'm talking, of course, about going through old photographs. Something that was said to me during the week caused me to wonder whether I had a photograph of the person involved. That's what started me out on the wild goose chase. All my photographs are in the one cupboard, but that's as far as organisation goes, almost. Well, I've bought a few albums over the years, and promised myself that I'll put them all in order, but every time it ends up the same way – I get about ten per cent of them done, and then I get tired of it, and once again get caught up in the memories that they are bringing back, and start leafing through them all, and forget about the albums.

I don't know what it is about old photographs. You'd think that they would make one depressed – all the people who have since passed away – pictures of places that one will probably never have the opportunity to see again – people who were very good friends then, but whom one has lost contact with since. And yet, despite that, the memories tend to be good – we didn't take photographs at funerals in days gone by, only weddings, and baptisms, and first communions, and holidays.

One particular photo that caught my attention was of two uncles of mine who were identical twins. It was taken at the beginning of the twentieth century, when they were little children, and what's remarkable about it is that they are both dressed as little girls – or at least that's what it looks like to me. But seemingly that's how little boys were dressed then in rural Ireland – they don't look in the slightest bit embarrassed to be wearing dresses. Thank God the custom had gone by the time I was born! Wearing the religious habit is one thing, but a dress? No thanks.

And I suppose, if I was to get philosophical about it, that was the common thread running through my viewing of the photos – how much people and times have changed! But then I came across some photos that were taken with an old brownie box camera from the bedroom window of my grannie's house in Kerry, looking across the bay at Mount Brandon, and I could see that despite everything, some things never change!

And our readings today remind us that the same applies to our faith. Particularly in the years since the Vatican Council, so many things have changed that you hear people say that they're not quite sure what they're supposed to believe any more. The heart of our faith is in those two Commandments – a whole-hearted love of God and of one another, because we believe in a God who is Love. It doesn't matter whether we pray in Latin or English; whether we avoid 'serious' sin rather than 'mortal' sin; whether Adam and Eve ever had a taste for fruit; as long as love is the guiding principle of our lives.

Get the picture?

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We remember those who have died recently – May Groarke (funeral 10.30am Thursday 8th November, reception 5.45pm Wednesday), Molly Frank (funeral 12.00 noon Friday 9th November), Nigel Roche, Sr. Pat Daly LSU; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Patrick Condon, Peter McCaffery, Netta Windle, Mary & Martin Joyce, Eileen Hickey, Agnes McCormack. We have received news of the death of Bridget Healy, former parishioner and teacher at St Joseph's School for over 20 years. Her funeral will be at Our Lady of Muswell Church at 10.00am on Monday 12th November.

November Dead List:

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

Coffee Morning:

There will be a Coffee Morning today, Sunday, 4th November, immediately after the 10am Mass. You're invited to take a little time to meet and greet your fellow parishioners. All welcome, young and old.

Parish Bazaar – November 24th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 24th of November which, believe it or not, is only **three 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. 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,362. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Holy Land Olive Wood Sale:

This weekend, 3rd/4th November, the Good Shepherd Company will be selling olive wood carvings from the Holy Land (Bethlehem). They write - *We are the Good Shepherd Company from the Holy land (based in Nottingham) and working alongside St. Vincent De Paul society for orphans and elderly in the Holy land. Our goal is to support and help the Christian families in the holy land to stay in work, as olive wood products is one of their most important source of income - 90% of the Christians rely on these sales. So by selling their produce here (rosaries, crosses, cribs and religious statues) on their behalf, helps prevent the Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities, as a test survey from the bishops of Jerusalem there are only forty one thousand Christians left in the area.*

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery:

If your child is 3 years old or will be turning 3 in the Autumn /Spring Term, apply now for the school nursery. The school offers FREE part-time (8:40am -1:00pm) and FREE full time (8:40-3:15) nursery places for eligible children. Our fees for non-eligible children are £85 per week for half day sessions. Wrap around care is also offered subject to availability of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£10) until 6pm. Applications are available on the website or contact office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Parish Diaries:

St. Joseph's Parish Diaries for next year are now available in the Repository, along with 2019 Calendars.

Some Updating:

I just realise it's been some time since we've had an update on some of the more material things going on in the Parish. It has taken a long time to get the next phase of works in the church organised, but at last we're almost ready to go with the refurbishment and decoration of the porch area of the church, and also with the essential work to the seating in the church – cleaning, repairing, recovering the kneelers, and fixing them to the floor. All that remains is to negotiate when is the best time to do the work so as to cause least disruption to normal activity.

Parish Centre Ceili Mix:

The Monthly Céili Mix is on next Friday 9th November, 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.