



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)

7th July 2019 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why Did The Hen.....

You may recall from the visit of the Jubilee Icon commemorating 300 years from the foundation of the Passionist Congregation, that we were founded in Italy by St. Paul of the Cross. Like all such saints, many stories of things that he said and did are passed down from generation to generation. One can't always vouch for the total accuracy of these stories, but together they contribute to the overall image of a very saintly person, particularly favoured by the Lord. I came across one such story recently that I hadn't heard before, and as it particularly tickled my fancy I thought I might share it with you.

"Having finished a mission (*editor's note – these were preaching events held in parishes, maybe for a week, maybe two – some of our more senior parishioners may remember them – hell-fire and brimstone, very often!*) in Magliano in 1754 St. Paul of the Cross continued on to start another at Fianello. Unfortunately he had only just arrived when he became ill and was confined to bed at the home of the Surrisi family. Agnes Surrisi thought to aid his recovery by making some chicken broth and to that end gave money to Antonio Pecelli to buy a hen from a Bibiana Angelini. Antonio went off to buy the hen which had distinctive markings; all black with a white stripe around the neck (*- sounds like a hen in a clerical suit to me!*). No sooner was the hen brought back than it was killed, plucked and cooked, making its contribution to the supper of Fr. Paul and his companions. (*No way to treat a clerical hen!*)

So far so good you might say, but the next day Bibiana who had sold the hen went to the chicken coop to feed the chickens and was amazed to find that the hen with the distinctive markings was right there where it usually was, expecting to be fed! Bibiana figured that the hen had either been of no use to the Surrisi family or it had escaped and returned home. She then took the hen and went off to Agnes to say that she could either keep the hen or she would return the money. It was now Agnes' turn to be amazed and bewildered because she explained that she had certainly killed, plucked and cooked and eaten this hen the night before. Bibiana insisted that Agnes either take the money or the hen. In the light of such insistence Agnes chose to keep the hen thinking to herself that this might be God's way of rewarding her generosity. She took the hen and placed a small bell on its neck and called it "Father Paul's Hen". She used to guard the hen carefully and used the eggs for those who were sick in the town. Before long people were being miraculously cured by these eggs and they were coming from Calvi and Magliano asking for the miraculous eggs of "Father Paul's Hen."

After three or four years the hen disappeared and no one knows how!"

I'm not saying I believe or disbelieve this story – after all, where I come from the belief is that truth should never get in the way of a good story! – but it's very much in keeping with the spirit of today's Gospel passage – the welcome that should always be given to Jesus' message. It isn't so much about chickens or eggs – whichever of them came first! – but more about allowing ourselves to hear His message of love, and by the way we live to spread that message in our world.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Jerzy Henryk Mazur (funeral 12 noon Tuesday 9th July), John Fitzgerald (funeral 11.00am Thursday 11th July), Fintan Breen (10.30am Tuesday 16th July, reception 5.00pm Monday), Magella Sweeney, John Coathorpe, Ernestina Gonzalez Inzunza; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – David O'Sullivan, Anna Tierney, Helena (Ena) Duffley, Danny McCarron, Patrick Queenan.

Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning this Sunday, 7th July, 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,178. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish. Last weekend's Peter's Pence collection for Papal Charities raised £445.

Annual Mission Appeal:

Last week we announced that the annual mission appeal would be taking place this Sunday, on behalf of the White Fathers. Unfortunately we've just had word that the priest who was to make the appeal has been taken ill, and will not be able to be here, nor has he been able to find a replacement speaker. So we will not be able to have the collection today, but will look into the possibilities of rescheduling it for later in the year.

Passage Garden Party:

Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 18 July, from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Tickets at £45 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper and live music. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite, or from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, operating the till and customer service. Full training will be given. You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.

Apologies and Thanks: *Update from last week*

Let me get the thanks in first! Thanks to some magnificent responses to my remarks some weeks back about the difficulty in getting coin bags, I am now up to my neck in them! I even got some brought down from Liverpool! I doubt I'll be needing any more before next Christmas. Thanks to all who were so kind as to take the trouble to track them down.

The apology relates to our Broadband, which has been out of operation since Wednesday morning. Despite all the politeness during telephone calls, and promises, and even a technician – the wrong one of course – turning up, still no sign of repair. (*That was last week's notice.*) Since then the broadband has been restored – another technician here most of Sunday last – but in the meantime they managed to disconnect one of our ISDN lines. That took until Friday of this week to repair. In other words we had repair-men here for 10 out of 11 days in the past two weeks. One can't fault their determination to fix things, but they were a lesson in daily living! By which I mean that those ten technicians – yes, there was a different one each day! – never seemed to have any information as to what the guy the day before had attempted. Just illustrated the difficulties that we create for ourselves when we don't have proper communication. A modern-day parable?

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so.** Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them - have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here.