



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 October 2018 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Truth, The Hole Truth....

I regret that I have to begin by making a confession this week-end. I know some of you will be upset, especially if you had outdoor plans for Saturday. But I hope you will forgive me. You see, when I came here 10 years ago I was greeted, not by a welcoming committee, but with the sight of a sanctuary covered in towels and buckets. I'm not sure if I've ever quite recovered from that shock, but I'm continuing with the therapy! Thank God, over the intervening years – thanks among other things to your generosity – we have managed to keep the rain outside, and dryness within. Until two week-ends ago, that is. It was with a sense of Deja-vu that I came out of the sacristy on the Sunday morning to be greeted not only by buckets and towels, but with a whole section of the front of the church roped off. I thought I was suffering flashbacks! It was with some degree of relief that I gradually realised that this was a new leak, and not the result of poor workmanship in the previous repair work.

To cut a long story short, thanks to the generous assistance and good offices of one of our parishioners, John, we managed to secure the services of a roofer very promptly. Fortunately the leaking was coming from an area that could be accessed relatively easily, with a minimum amount of scaffolding. We had been very fortunate that since the Sunday of the awful leaks there had been no rain, and it continued to remain dry while we arranged to get the work done. And once the scaffolding was erected it took them but a few hours on Thursday morning to accomplish the required repairs. Or did it? You know how it is with leaks, you can never be sure they have been properly repaired until the repairs are properly tested. We needed rain! But no rain on Thursday, or Friday. We couldn't afford to keep the scaffolding there for ever. So, Friday evening I did something I can't remember ever doing before – I'm not a farmer – I prayed for rain! So you can blame me for the awful day this Saturday. But it seems to have been worth it, as so far we have had no further leaks. So I've prayed for a beautiful day on Sunday, and the rest of the week for good measure! (That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.)

Our gospel this week-end has nothing to do with leaky roofs, but it does coincide with the beginning of our First Communion program. From now until the middle of next June close on sixty children from our Parish will be learning about their need for spiritual food, and growing in their appreciation of the wonderful gift that the Lord has left us in the sacraments – particularly Eucharist and Reconciliation. As our gospel reminds us, it is important that we bring the "little children" to Jesus. As in the gospel, it is important that they feel his near presence in their lives – that He can "put his arms round them" and give them his blessing. This is a special time, not just for these children and their families, but for the entire parish. We all have a role in helping them grow in their appreciation and respect for all that Jesus means. And especially we are called upon to pray that this will be a year of special blessing for them, for their families, and for our parish.

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We remember those who have died recently – Mary Patricia Gillen (funeral 12.30pm Friday 12th October), Nora Fitzgibbon (funeral 1.00pm Friday 19th October), Marie Sweeney; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Dan Murphy, Melvyn Evans, David Stirling.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

The first session for the First Communion program starts this morning, 7th October for Group A, and next Sunday, 14th October, for Group B. The groups have been allocated and details of schedules sent to parents/carers during this past week. The lists are also on the inner doors in the porch of the church.

Coffee Morning:

The latest in our series of Coffee Mornings will be held immediately after the 10am Mass today. You're invited to take a little time to meet and greet your fellow parishioners. All welcome, young and old.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,422. 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.

CAFOD Fast Day:

CAFOD Family Fast collection will be taken after Masses this weekend. If you are a taxpayer please remember you can increase the value of your donation by 25p for every pound given by completing the Gift Aid form on the collection envelopes available in the porch.

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

Harvest Sunday:

Next Sunday, 14th October, will be our Harvest Sunday. We invite you to bring gifts of food for distribution to the poor of the area (long-dated non-perishable foodstuffs, e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, etc.).

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course for adults interested in becoming Catholics will start shortly, provided we have enough applications before mid-October. The course is free. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com

Evening of Adoration:

The Charismatic Prayer Group invite you to an Evening of Adoration and Intercession at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9th October in the Lady Chapel. Come and join us in Adoration and in prayers of intercession before the Blessed Sacrament. Please see poster on church noticeboard.

Job Vacancies in St. Aloysius College:

St. Aloysius College has a number of vacancies in various posts – teaching, cleaning, etc. For more information and application forms, contact - mcdonagh.d@sta.islington.sch.uk .

Parish Bazaar – November 24th:

It's only 9 weeks away! It might appear strange to be announcing it this early, but as this is the only regular fund-raising event we have each year, and also one of our principle social events, it is important that people support it as best they can. Attendance has been increasing year on year, and feedback has been very positive. But we still have people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So **please put the date in your diary**, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

School Transfer Open Days:

St. Aloysius College, are holding Open Mornings on Tuesday 9th October, Wednesday 10th October, Thursday 11th October 9:15-10.30am.

La Sainte Union, have an open afternoon on Wednesday, 10th October, from 2.00-3.30pm

Concert for the Passage:

Please support the excellent work of The Passage homeless Day Centre by considering attending its annual concert *Night Under The Stars* at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 6 November at 7.30pm. This year's concert is entitled *Northern Lights* and features music by Grieg and Sibelius. For details and booking visit <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk> or telephone 020 3879 9555.