



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)

8th September 2019 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

WeCroak

There is an app on my phone called WeCroak. It is a simple concept based on a teaching in Bhutan that says contemplating death five times each day will bring happiness. The app sends you five notifications, each day with a reminder that you will die and then offers a quote that helps you think about the shortness of life and the finality of death. Quotes like, "We only die once, and for such a long time" by Moliere; or "No one on his deathbed ever said, 'I wish I had spent more time on my business'" by Paul Tsongas. Have these five random death reminders each day made me happier? I don't know, but I have found myself more discriminatory about the things to which I give my time and energy. I am choosing to do more things that give me life and less things that drain my life. Whatever the reason, I believe the Psalmist is right.

The Responsorial Psalm for today calls us to think about life in a similar way. The Psalter is broken into five smaller books. They are telling the story of the history of Israel and Israel's relationship with God. Our Psalm today begins Book Four. It does help us to know where it fits in the story. Book Three is largely categorized by Lament Hymns. And the Book Four helps move the Psalter in the direction of Praise Hymns. Psalm 90, our text for today opens Book Four and it helps the careful readers to shift their focus in preparation for a shifting in the Psalter; from the painful Lament Psalms of Book Three by adding in a Psalm of Moses. By doing this the reader is called to remember a time before Kings and Nation. It calls the heroes to remember their beginnings in the wilderness.

As we read through the text we can observe three main ideas the author is trying to communicate. One; God is eternal and timeless. God was present before creation began and God will be here beyond its existence. Number two; by contrast, human lives and all that they can fathom are but a blip on a screen for God. And because of that our lives are fleeting. Number three; This human life is full of hard work, turmoil, suffering and sadness. What we hope for and ask God for, is to help us find purpose and meaning in the suffering, so that it does not always feel in vain. The psalm draws a very stark difference between humanity's limited time in this world and God's limitless time. And it appeals to God for help at the same time acknowledging that they ask for help from the one who is giving the wrath they are experiencing. In fact, in verse thirteen, they ask God to turn from their wrath, and toward compassion and mercy.

For me verse 12 holds some really important ideas. It says; "Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart." There is a sense that when we are realistic about the disparity between our vision of time and creation and God's vision of time and creation and when we take time to consider that we will die, we will be humbled in a way that brings the wisdom that we long for. God said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!" Since our beginning humanity has, to some degree believed it knew more than God. I think some of our suffering comes from believing we have the whole picture and understand what is going on. When we learn to let go of needing to know and needing to control will we learn that so much is out of our control. There is a gentleness that we feel and a sense of being okay because we are learning to let go. Fr. George

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We pray for those who have died recently – Kevin Barry (funeral 11.30am Wednesday 11th September, Reception 7.30pm Tuesday), Leonard Connor (funeral 11.30am Monday 16th September,), Josh Bannister; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Jim Matthews, Thomas Carlyle, Alice Ryan, Joseph Pelahey, Arthur Anderson, Victoria Maria Philips, Anna Marie D'Souza.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are now available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is **accompanied by a baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as that being made by our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,452. 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.

Pre-Marriage Course:

We expect our next pre-marriage course will be taking place in late 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 will be available once the date is confirmed.

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

It is too early yet to know whether we will be having an RCIA course here this year. The course is free, and takes place if enough interest is expressed. Anybody interested in taking part should contact either Fr. Pat or Fr. George, so that we can have some idea as to what needs to be provided. Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let us know if you are interested.

CAFOD Information Afternoon:

Wed 18th Sept 2.30pm-4pm, CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a guest speaker, Laura Ouseley, who has first-hand experience of their work overseas. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre, 1st Floor, Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London, N14 4HE. Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

Schools Open Days etc...

St Aloysius College, Highgate

Open evening Thursday Sept 26th 4.30-7.30pm

Open morning Sat Sept 28th 9-11am

Open mornings October 1st-3rd 9.15-10.30

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School – Admission for September 2020

Year 7 Admissions:

Tuesday 17 September & Thursday 26 September 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm. Guided tours of the school will follow each speech.

Year 12 (Sixth Form) Admissions:

Thursday 3 October and on Tuesday 15 October 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 5.00 pm. Guided tours of the school will follow his speech. The last tour will be held at 6.00 pm.

Our Lady's Catholic High School – Hackney

Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 19th September 4pm to 8pm

Support Victims of Modern Slavery:

The Janus Ensemble, alongside soloists Ariana Kashefi (cello) and Oliver Wass (harp) will present an evening of classical music, in aid of Caritas Bakhita House & Saint John Of God Hospitaller Services at St Mary's Church (Cadogan Street) on Wednesday 25th September, at 6pm. Drinks and food will be provided during the intermission. Tickets are available Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/support-victims-of-modern-slavery-classical-concert-tickets-61926624200>