



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)

9th June 2019 – Pentecost Sunday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Thank God I have got to the stage in life where I don't really feel under any pressure to be buying birthday presents for people (and vice versa). For friends and family of my own age it is enough that I acknowledge birthdays with a card, maybe, or even a phone call. Sometimes, if one suspects that they are sensitive about their age, it's maybe better not to raise the subject at all! And I'll be honest, sometimes I have gone through my own birthday without realising it until someone says something like "Oh, it's your birthday today, isn't it? Happy Birthday". And despite what I've said earlier, I know it does give me a little boost to think that someone remembers, even when I've forgotten myself. And I fully appreciate that I'm not the only one in this position. I know many people who, beaten by even the thought of having to think of something to choose, then to go and get it, and then to have to arrange to deliver it, now just put some money in a card and post it to children/grandchildren/whatever. I'm not criticising anybody – I know from the other angle how difficult I find it if someone indicates to me that they would like to buy me a present, could I suggest something I might like/appreciate. I will usually deflect the question with something like 'make it a surprise', which I know is not really helping.

What's brought all this on, you may ask. Well, as you may – of more probably, may not – be aware, today is widely regarded as the birthday of the Church. The preface of our mass today reminds us - *This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.* So, Happy Birthday! But don't be expecting any gifts from me. The gifts today of course come from the Holy Spirit, and our feast today is a reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the continuing presence of that Spirit in our world today. Our first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, highlights the special miracle that people with all kinds of different languages were able to understand the preaching of the apostles. But probably the great miracle caused by the coming of the Spirit, was that a group of people who were basically hidden away because of their fear of what might happen to them, were now openly preaching the message to anybody who would listen to them. Such was the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

This same Spirit is still with us, and Christ promised that this Spirit would be with us to the end of time. Our gathering here today, both at the masses and at our Parish International Lunch in the early afternoon, is hopefully an expression of our thanks to God for the wonderful gift that He has given to us in the faith we share. It's also an expression of gratitude for all the wonderful people that He has brought into our lives and with whom we share that faith. And, of course, it's also an occasion of mutual encouragement to use our God-given gifts to continue to spread the Gospel as best we can, knowing that the same Spirit is there to encourage each one of us. So while we rightly celebrate the Birthday of the Church, our on-going presence and involvement in the community is our special present to one another.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Mary Fitzpatrick; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Paul Suttton, Noel McCormack, Bill Slow, Mary O'Shea, Julia Ita Hearn.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch on **THIS** Sunday, 9th June, at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, (despite how the weather is at time of writing!) spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is our third year to celebrate Pentecost in this way. Our celebration is designed to encourage people to build on the real sense of community in our Parish, by getting to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. If you were one of the lucky ones who managed to be here for previous celebrations you will remember what a wonderful success they were, and what an amazing variety of food was contributed. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country of origin, and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

First Communions:

At the 12.00 Masses on the next two week-ends about sixty of our young people will be making their First Holy Communions. This naturally means that there will be a great increase in the numbers attending those Masses. Those who regularly attend the 12 o'clock Mass are of course very welcome to come. We just want to forewarn you that the entire front portion of the church will be reserved for the children and their families, and we expect that there will also be much crowding in the rear section of the church. So you might want to consider coming to a less crowded celebration on those two Sundays, but if you're prepared to endure the crowding – and admire the fashion! – you are most welcome to attend.

Group A will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 16th June. A reminder to them that there will be a practice for them at 11.30am this coming Saturday 15th. Group B will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass on the following Sunday, 23rd June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 22nd.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,354. 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.

100 Club:

The May Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 125 and the winners were: £400 Member no. 73, £100 Angela Maxwell (171), £50 Chiara Mayer-Rieckh (142). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 23rd June. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Volunteering Opportunity in Lourdes:

Could you be a Lourdes helper? The Lourdes pilgrimage team are looking to recruit volunteers to lend medical and practical support for the pilgrimage from 20th to 26th July 2019. If interested, please contact the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office at Vaughan House on 0207 798 9173 or email westminsterfri@gmail.com or lourdes@rcdow.org.uk.

Mary's Meals:

A big 'thank you' to St Joseph for your donations to Mary's Meals' Rags to Riches collection last Sunday. We're delighted to say that the parish managed to give 180 kg of unwanted clothes making a total contribution of £100.80. The amount raised will feed 7 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. Mary's Meals is very grateful for your support.

Open Evening – St Michael's, Finchley:

The Open Evening for Admissions 2020 to St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, will be held on Thursday 27th June 2019. There are two sessions on the 27th June; 3:30pm until 5:00pm and 7:00pm until 9:00pm. The Headteacher will address prospective parents at 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

Highgate Festival Ceili:

St Joseph's Parish Centre will be hosting a Ceili on Friday June 14th, 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm as part of the Highgate Festival. Live band, great caller who knows how to lead beginners as well as experts, home made food and we're also hoping for an Irish Dancing display. Bring your dancing shoes or come along to listen and for the Craic! All ages welcome. £7.50 early bird tickets/concessions Tickets £10 on the night- any money raised will go towards the heating system to the Parish Centre. For tickets please contact Cheryl - felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.