



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)

10th November 2019 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Naked Prayers'

There are many ways we can engage prayer. We can pray as we run or as we clean the kitchen. We can pray on our commute or when we watch the news. We can pray sitting still or while we are dancing in our living room. When we believe that there is only one way of praying then we miss many different opportunities to engage with God. A few years ago, an artist named Mara Measor wrote a book titled 'Naked Prayers'. The book details prayers she prayed over the space of a year, as she struggled with some tough times. In an article about this book she concluded her description by saying, "You don't have to pretend that everything's okay-not to others and especially not to God," Measor said, "It's so sad when you speak to him as anything but exactly who you are."

The same feelings are echoed in the Responsorial Psalm for today.

It would be so easy to pick fun at the author of Psalm 17. I know that may sound harsh, but look back at what the Psalmist says.

".....attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit." (Look at me God, pay attention to me God...)

".....let your eyes see the right." (As if God doesn't already know what is right.)

".....if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress." (Really? Are you sure about that? NO wickedness in you?)

This whole Psalm sounds a little whiny and attention-seeking to me.

Now, lest you think I am being too hard on the Psalmist, let us think for a moment about what we find in this unique Biblical book. We find many followers of God, confessing their sin and their successes, reaching out to God, talking to God, and about God in every life situation you can imagine. And today, the Psalmist that we are reading is in a life situation where he feels as though he has been wronged and is reaching out to God for help and yes, even revenge.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt like someone harmed you or someone that you loved? Have you ever found yourself talking to God about that situation and for a bit just being brutally honest about your anger and your hurt—and then in the middle of it, may be, you said things you would go back and change or didn't really mean?

Being in a relationship with God allows us the opportunity to be completely honest about our experiences, feelings, frustrations, and even our wants that we might not be so proud of. The Psalmist today was being honest with God about how he felt and what he wanted. Just because we ask God for something doesn't mean it will come true or it will happen, but we should be honest with God about our experiences, feelings, and desires. This will allow us to be loved by God whether the desires of our heart are completely pure or not. God is not an ATM machine, but God is in relationship with us and being open and honest with God only strengthens that relationship. So, take the time to tell God all the things you are thinking and then listen closely for God's reply. Let that honesty lead you to a more generous, and kind way of being in the world.

- Read over the Psalm again. We are not told about the circumstances, only the response and prayer... What circumstances do you imagine might have prompted the Psalm?
- The Psalm expresses all kinds of feelings and ideas. How does this kind of Psalm make you feel and why?
- How does someone become more honest with God, and in what ways might that change the relationship we have with God and others?
- What are some things that you tell yourself, even though you might not totally believe them to be true?
- Why do you tell yourself, or others, these things?
- What are some truths about yourself that you are not comfortable sharing with God?

We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – Janet Groves; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Phil O'Keefe, Hannah Lucitt, John O'Brien, Frank Quinn, Robert Marchant, Stephen O'Reilly, Josephine Dyne-Scott, Noel Kelly;

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,556. 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.

Christmas Bazaar: * Next Saturday – 16th November! *** 11.00-3.00pm in the Parish Centre**

The eagerly awaited day is nearly upon us, and once again we will be getting under way at the earlier start time of 11.00am - come early and browse the stalls before enjoying some lunch. We will have all the usual favourites, including the ever popular Irish Coffee! **And again this year – BBNWT:** Is your wardrobe full of clothes and shoes you have bought but never worn and still have their tags on? If so please consider donating them to our bazaar for our **Bought But Never Worn with Tags** stall! But we still need a lot more BOTTLES for the Tombola and 'nice' goods for the stalls - please give what you can. We also need HOME MADE CAKES, buns, biscuits, jams and preserves for the cake stall - please bake this week! We need labelled PLANTS for the plant stall. You may bring cakes and plants to the Monastery on Friday, or to the actual stalls on the day. And if you would like to help in any way there is still time to volunteer, please contact Cheryl on felicitymaynard@hotmail.com. Finally we look forward to seeing you, your family and friends there next Saturday. We have plenty of activities for children, and we have it on very good authority that Santa will be there! So please come along, have a great time, and make this year's Bazaar the successful social event it has always been.

Grand Raffle:

Whether you can manage to come to the Bazaar or not, You can still participate in the Grand Raffle which will take place on the day. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses this week-end, still at only £1 each.

A Day of Celebration:

We are organising a Day of Celebration on Sunday 24th November in honour of Fr. Pat to thank him for his long commitment to St. Joseph's. Please join us in expressing best wishes and prayers. There will be a concelebrated Mass at 12.00pm and a shared lunch afterwards in the Red Room and the Monastery dining room. It would be appreciated if you could bring a plate of food to contribute.

And there will be an Exit Collection next Sunday 17th November for a Farewell Gift. Your generosity is appreciated, as always.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd 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 can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

November Dead List:

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

Part-Time Jobs in St. Joseph's School:

The Governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery are seeking to appoint experienced playworkers to supervise children after school. We are particularly interested in applicants who have experience in EYFS who have valid qualifications for working in Early Years. The salary is based on termtime only scale 3 (8,432.89 actual per year). 15 hours per week: 3:00pm – 6:00pm Monday – Friday and required as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying, please contact the school office office@stjosephs.islington.sch.uk for an application form and job description. The closing date is Wednesday 13th November.

St. Joseph's School – spaces for 3 year-olds:

We currently have spaces in our Little Gems Nursery Class for children who have just turned 3. If you are interested in your child joining our Little Gems Nursery Class now or later on this academic year please pick up an application form at the back of the church or from the school office. office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk. You are also more than welcome to come along to our open day on Thursday 21st November at 9:15am, no need to book just come along.

Bulletin Arrangements:

From next weekend the weekly Bulletin will be produced on Friday. Any input will need to be received by the parish office (joseph.highgate@gmail.com) by Thursday evening please.