



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

e-mail: [joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com) : website: [www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto: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)

## 11th November 2018 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Remembrance Sunday

One could be forgiven for imagining that the month of November has a great potential for being a depressing time. The subject of death is very much to the fore, and our modern society is not very keen to even say the word, not to mind reflect on the reality. People now 'pass on' or 'are no longer with us', or some such euphemism. That's possibly to a degree understandable if one believes that death is the end – but for us Christians that is certainly not the case. Our belief is that just as Christ allowed Himself to share in our capacity to die, so he has allowed us to share in His eternal life.

So our month of November is inviting us to reflect positively on the subject of death – whether it be to remember members of our own families who have gone before us, or, as is the focus of attention today – Remembrance Sunday – all those who have died in the service of their country during the First World War and the many conflicts since. Reflecting positively in such circumstances entails appreciating the sacrifices that others have made so that our world might be a better place, and making sure that their sacrifice has not been in vain. And being positive in our present world doesn't necessarily come easily. Unfortunately it's easy still to see widespread examples of the same underlying attitudes of greed for power, and lack of respect for the value and rights of others, that led to such disastrous wars in the past. Which makes it all the more urgent that such attitudes should be counter-acted by love, care and respect for others – especially the most needy – that Christ asks us to manifest in our own lives.

I couldn't help notice a young lady on the tube recently who was applying her make-up, while staring into her mobile. I wondered at first if she had some special app that turned the screen into a mirror, until I realised that she was actually using it the way people take selfies – pointing the camera at herself. I was in awe and admiration of her ingenuity and skill, undeterred by the swaying of the train, and the jostling of the passengers around her. By the time she was ready to get off there appeared not to be a brush-stroke out of place, and the only place there was lipstick was on her lips!

But isn't it so often true, that if we're really determined to achieve something, when we put our heart and souls into it, we generally are pretty successful? Wherever that woman was going to she was obviously concerned to appear her best, and if that meant putting on her make-up on the underground, nothing was going to distract her. Our problem so often is that we are so easily distracted – that we so easily lose heart - frequently feeling beaten before we even start. "What's the point", we sometimes ask, "I'm not likely to succeed anyway, and even if I did, I'm just a very small fish in a very big pond."

And yet, in our gospel today Jesus is telling us that it's not the size of our contribution that matters, but the heart with which it's given. It would have been so understandable if the poor widow woman has said "I would like to give, but I really need this couple of coins – it's all that's between me and starvation". But she doesn't – instead she "gave her all", because rather than trusting solely in her few possessions, she placed her trust in God. It meant so much to her to do her bit, no matter how little it might appear. If we could only have that same total commitment and trust, imagine how loving a home we could create, how caring a parish we'd become – there's no knowing what we could achieve!

-----00000OOO00000-----

**We remember those who have died recently** – Molly Frank, May Groarke, Peggie Wade, Bridget Healy (funeral at Our Lady of Muswell Church, 10.00am Monday 12th November); **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Phil O'Keefe, Hannah Lucitt, Robert Marchant, Josephine Dyne-Scott.