



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)

12th May 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

BANKING ON JESUS

Some of the older – sorry, the ‘more senior’ – among you may remember a long time ago a song called “A Pub with no Beer”. It basically conjured up the nightmare image that of course could never happen! I’ve still not come across a pub with no beer, but the image was brought to mind by my recent experiences in the world of banking! Yes, the bank where we’ve been carrying on business since well before I came here has declared that it has now become “A Bank with no Cash”. Now, I wouldn’t bother mentioning this to you if it weren’t for the Twilight Zone that I seem to have entered into since being given that information.

“So, how do we lodge money to our account?” “You could do it by courier to approved cash centres, or you could do it through the Post Office.” “We have a lot of coin – how do we get coin bags from you?” “We don’t supply them any more.” “So, where do we get them?” “You could try opening a personal account at another bank, and ask them to supply them.” (I promise – I did not make this up!) It was obviously time to recognise that we needed a new bank. That will take some time – especially having seen the 21 page application form full of options that nearly, but don’t quite, fit our situation.

In the meantime we need to lodge the money that comes through the collections each Sunday, and is essential for the running of the Parish. So I said to myself I would give it a go at the Post Office down at Archway. (I never like to ask anyone to do something without myself first experiencing what it is I am asking of them.) I took less than a third of our intake of coins – we don’t lodge the buttons or trolley tokens etc! – and headed down. It wasn’t a good omen when I got there to find the Post Office was no longer where it had been! Not to be deterred, I headed to its new location further down the street and on the other side, to see that it was a few cramped windows at the back of a mini market.

The very helpful assistant at the window that I eventually reached had never heard of lodging money to a bank account through the Post Office. Fortunately there was just about enough space behind him for the supervisor to stand – with an eye on all three windows – who was sharp enough to spot the problem, and tell the assistant how to manage the transaction. Then he turned to me and said – “If you’re doing this again, could you be a Good Samaritan, and tell the assistant that they can find how to do it at the bottom of their screen!” I duly agreed, grateful that I was not dressed in a Roman collar! Then I had to place every individual bag of coins on the scales, wait ‘til he checked it was the correct weight, and then pass it through to the assistant. I was grateful that I was only doing a trial run, and hadn’t brought all our coins, which would have been more than three times the number of bags! As it was, the people in the queue were not impressed. Not to mention those who were in mobility buggies, and who were not shy in expressing their displeasure at the huge reduction in their space for manoeuvre.

The point of the story? It would be very helpful if you would only put notes in the collection in future, to save us having to lodge coins! (Only JOKING – but if you know where I can get small bags for coins, that would be helpful.) And the Gospel? Another security issue! But this time not our money, but our very selves. Jesus tells us that if we belong to Him “no one will ever steal you from me.” That will never change. We need only allow ourselves to be collected into one fold, with the one Shepherd. We can bank on that! (Apologies)

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We pray for those who have died recently – J. H. Hammond; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Gerald Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, Gertrude (Duda) Collie, Mary Douglas, Yvonne Emery (Cooke), Billy Ryan, Billy Nolan, Ted Duane, Jeremiah Dermody, Maire Dermody.

Tea party

The next of our regular afternoon tea socials will be taking place this coming Thursday, May 16th, from 2.00 to 3.30pm – please note, **not** the usual Wednesday. There's a particular welcome for the more senior members of the Parish, especially those who appreciate the opportunity to come and spend some relaxed time chatting with other members of the Parish and sharing a cuppa.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,567. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support your Parish.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

This annual event will be taking place this year in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you qualify, and would like to attend, please give to Fr. Pat the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Christus Vivit: Reflections for Young Adults:

A further meeting of young adults at Archbishop's House will take place on Tuesday 21st May, 6.30pm. These meetings are an opportunity for young adults to come together following the Synod of Bishops meeting on youth last October, pray, have input from one of our diocesan bishops, reflect and discuss the place of faith in the life of young people. Bishop John Wilson will be leading our reflections, this time focusing on the recently published exhortation from Pope Francis addressed to young people. All young adults are invited to attend. Please let us know your intention to attend by emailing youth@rcdow.org.uk. For more details, go to www.dowym.com/events

Volunteer Year at SPEC, the Diocesan Youth Retreat Centre:

SPEC, the diocesan youth retreat centre, offers the possibility of a volunteer year for young adults. The volunteer missionary would live on site in Pinner in the residential community, receive formation and accompaniment in their faith and serve as a retreat facilitator, working with the employed retreat leaders. In particular, any sixth formers who may like to find out more are welcome to attend a day retreat to see what goes on and meet the community. For more information please see www.dowym.com/spec/volunteer/ or contact spec@rcdow.org.uk.

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.

Mary's Meals Clothes Collection:

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon on Sunday, 2nd June, to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

Aid To The Church In Need:

Aid to the Church in need is a Pontifical charity which works in 140 countries, helping persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world through prayer, information and action. As the Sri Lanka attacks show, Christians worldwide face serious persecution. During the past century, Christianity has been all but driven out of the Middle East, the place of its birth. Christian communities in Syria and Iraq who were forced out of their towns and villages by the extremist group Daesh (ISIS) now have a chance to return home to rebuild their livelihoods. They need our help as the cost of rebuilding is a huge undertaking. These families have had to give up everything for their faithfulness to Christ. Aid to the Church in Need is asking us to support these families in Sri Lanka, Syria and Iraq until it is safe for them to rebuild their lives and communities. If you wish to get involved in the charity or if anyone wants to be an ACN parish rep, please contact John on 07727442510 john.ravi@acnuk.org or go to www.acnuk.org.