



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)

13th January 2019 – The Baptism of the Lord Time Flies, but ...

Welcome to the New Year. OK, I appreciate we're almost half way through January, but as this is the first bulletin of 2019 I feel it's permissible to wish you a Happy New Year. I know that many of you managed to get away for a break, and I trust you go into the new year with batteries recharged and ready to deal with whatever 2019 throws at us.

I had hoped to be able to get away myself for a break to visit family in Ireland. I had booked a flight from Stansted to Dublin for the middle of Boxing Day. Usually when I make that trip I book a coach from Golder's Green to Stansted, giving myself loads of time in case there should be any traffic problems. I mustn't have been paying too much attention as I was making the booking, but when I worked it out in the morning I realised I had left it a little tight this time. Not too much, I should still arrive in the airport with maybe 30 more minutes than I reckoned I would need to get through security and get to the boarding gates. No sweat!

The very kind Fr. Ben offered to bring me to Golder's Green. Of course, simply not to offend him, I accepted his offer, and he dropped me off in good time for my coach. In fact, slightly too good a time – as it gave me the opportunity to read the notices around the waiting area. Imagine my horror when a heading caught my eye – “All coaches to Stansted Airport delayed by one hour.” Typical. The one time I had cut it finer than normal, the coach would be delayed. I couldn't call Fr. Ben and prevail on him to drive me to the airport. He might have been willing but I knew that he was already occupied for the rest of the morning. To have got a taxi would probably have cost more than my return air fare. I didn't fancy the idea of returning to St. Joseph's with my tail between my legs and have to acknowledge that I was clearly losing it!

But what other options did I have? I couldn't very well get somebody to send up a drone and delay all the flights until I got there! There seemed no other option than to wait the hour for the coach and hope for a miracle. Or, read the notice again! It still said “All coaches to Stansted Airport delayed by one hour.” And further down some long spiel on why this was happening – like I cared? And further down, the date. 18th December! You can't imagine my relief. To have missed a trip to Ireland – could there be any greater tragedy? Actually the coach arrived 10 minutes early, there was so little traffic, and got me to the airport in plenty of time, where I sauntered through a very quite security area, and had time to enjoy my sandwiches of left-over turkey and ham, and wait for my plane, which – you've guessed it – was one hour late leaving! (You and I know the flight would have been spot on time if my coach had been late!)

The incident came to mind as I was preparing for this Sunday's celebration – of the Baptism of Jesus. As we go through the same cycle of celebrations and readings year after year, we can also become a little careless in reading “the signs of the times” (every pun intended!) Our celebration today is not simply asking us to think back to Jesus's Baptism, but more significantly, to our own. Do I believe it has made a difference to me as I've journeyed through life? Do I really hear those words of God as being directed at me – “You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you.”

I pray that will be your experience this year – that the Lord's favour will clearly rest on you and yours.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, particularly – Thomas Flynn; **we remember those who have died recently** – Florence Cass (funeral 12 noon Tuesday 15th January), Martin Shannon (funeral 11.00am Thursday 17th January), James Lynch (funeral 12.00am Tuesday 22nd January), Dorothy Breen (funeral 10.15am Friday 1st February), Bill Thomas, Mary McGarty, Eileen Mary Lincoln; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Eileen Hughes, Br Matthew Grace CP, Anne Cross, George Kelly, Tom Hurndall, John Collins, Jessica Jacob, John & Robert Taylor, George O'Shea, Gerry Burks, Sonny Zaw Win.

Thank You:

Once again we begin a New Year, remembering that we have so much to be grateful for in the past year. It's my pleasant task again on behalf of our Passionist community here in St. Joseph's to express our sincere gratitude for your wonderful support and generosity to us over this past year, and particularly at Christmas. Much as we might like to, there is no realistic way of thanking you all individually for your generosity in giving of your time and talents in forwarding the mission of our Parish to be active and practical witnesses of the love of the Lord in our world. So please accept this little notice as an effort to express our very genuine and heartfelt appreciation. We are also grateful for the many expressions of good-will received, and for the many thoughtful and generous gifts left in for us prior to and during the Christmas season. In turn I pray that the Lord truly blessed your homes and families with a most holy and enjoyable celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

I also want to thank and congratulate you on the magnificent turn-out at the various Christmas celebrations, particularly at the two Christmas Eve celebrations. It is so heartening to see so many people taking the time and making the effort to focus on the deeper meaning of the festive season as well as enjoying the more material side of the festivities. A special thanks to all who put in so much work towards making Christmas in St. Joseph's so special - we think particularly of those responsible for cleaning and decorating the Church; those who erected and decorated the Cribs and Trees; those responsible for the Music ministry, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, servers, collectors, counters, receptionists –not forgetting the other ministry groups and individuals who as usual were generous in giving of their time and talents. And we must mention your magnificent response to the Giving Tree campaign. Be assured that all gifts were duly delivered in good time, and much appreciated by the Cardinal Hume Centre, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Gabriel's food distribution program and cold weather shelter.

Pre Marriage Course(s):

Such was the huge demand for places at our Marriage preparation course scheduled for February 3rd, that George, Isabel and Elizabeth have very generously given of their time to put on an extra course on Saturday, 9th March. There are still just a few places available on that date, so applications should be made as soon as possible to Fr. Pat, at pfcp44@yahoo.com.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,335. The Christmas collection for the support of the Passionist community here in Highgate amounted to £4,310. In addition to the above we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

Prayer Group:

The Charismatic Prayer Group resumes meetings this week Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in the Monastery. Every one welcome.

Bright Stars Play Group:

The St Joseph's Parish Bright Stars Stay and Play for 0-5 year olds is now back during the school term. It will run on Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00am in the parish centre. Lots of fun activities and arts and crafts. They are also looking for more volunteers to help at the stay and play. Please call Lucy on 07798 797 390 or email stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com if you would be interested in volunteering.

300th Anniversary of Passionists:

To mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Passionist Order – of which much more later in the year – Fr. Ben from our community here in St. Joseph's has produced a short life of the Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. This will be on sale after each Mass this weekend, price: £1-50.

Works in Church:

You will no doubt have noticed as you entered the church today that a major portion of the porch has been cut off, and the bottom right-hand quarter of our seats have been taped off. You may have noticed that the pews in that section have been sanded, which is the first stage of the more general refurbishment that will be taking place with all the seating in the church. Once they are thoroughly cleaned, any necessary repair work will be done, they will all be French-polished, and finally fixed to the floor. In the meantime the porch is being refurbished and redecorated. The false ceiling has been removed, the walls will be painted in the same colours as the main body of the church, and new notice boards will be placed on the walls – with the over-all effect, we hope, of providing a more welcoming area for people coming through our doors. The scheduled time for all the work is 10 weeks.