



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



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**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)

## 14th April 2019 – Palm Sunday Everybody Loves a Parade

It is Palm Sunday. This is such a fun day in churches. Chances are, all the children and usually some fun-loving adults will be processing in church services waving palm branches as the congregation sings something like, All Glory, Laud, and Honour. This Sunday also serves as the gateway to what is probably the busiest week of the Church Year - Holy Week.

The Gospel for today is, in fact, the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt as it is told in Luke 19:28-40. It was a parade with cheering and delight and pomp – who doesn't love a parade...right? So, let us remember the context of this story for a moment. Jesus is going to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate the Passover. This was a festival celebrating the time when the Israelites were saved from slavery in Egypt. Now, while the Israelites may not have been enslaved to Rome in Jesus' time as they were to Egypt so many centuries before, they certainly did feel the oppression and exploitation of the Roman government. One way Rome demonstrated its dominance each year was to have Pilate or some similar official ride into Jerusalem on a war horse a few days before Passover. This was used to remind the Jewish people that while they may have been saved from Egyptian enslavement, Rome was in charge now and they better remember it. As we think about that, it becomes clear that Jesus' act was not simply about demonstrating his own leadership or even his Lordship. Jesus' ride on that colt was a subversive and political demonstration meant to send the message that Rome was in fact the new Egypt and the Emperor was the new Pharaoh. I think it is often difficult for us to think about Jesus as being a political activist, but there is really no way to deny that this is what Jesus is doing as he rides in on this non-military colt. By doing so, he is saying that Pilate and Rome and the Emperor do not have the real power, but rather that the ways of peace and service are the real power. And Jesus is also speaking out against the oppression that comes from the Roman government. Did the Roman government know what Jesus was doing that day? We really don't know. But we do know that the people who were cheering him on in the streets understood the subversiveness of Jesus' donkey ride into Jerusalem. And they would have been encouraged and emboldened by the hope his ride stirred in them—hope for a system that was oppressive and broken to be fixed, hope for dignity, hope for peace. Plenty of people through time have followed in the way of Jesus as they have made their own protests against oppressive governments and systems—Gandhi, Henry David Thoreau, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, the Dalai Lama. Palm Sunday is a celebratory day in the life of the church, but it is more than that. It is a subversive day. It is a day to speak out against oppression. It is a day to get a little political. After all, when we think about what Jesus would do, he would, at least in some instances, be a political activist.

Walk the Talk:

(1) If Jesus were to come into our community today, how do you think he would come? (2) How do you think he would be received and why? (3) Who might not be so excited to see Jesus coming in our times and why? (4) As those who have chosen to follow Jesus, what does this passage teach us? (5) What if any, statement does this story from Jesus' life convey to people who might not know what the fuss is about? (6) What kinds of things might we do to enable "outsiders" to understand why Jesus' arrival is so important? Fr. George.

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – Joan & Tony Boyle; we remember those who have died recently – Joseph Clabby, Bridgette McDwyer; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Thomas Cardiff, John Reilly.**

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**

There are leaflets available at the back of the church with details of services over the next couple of weeks. We just give you here a brief summary of the main events

**Holy Thursday** – Mass of Lord’s Supper at 8.00 pm, followed by Exposition at the Altar of Repose.

**Good Friday**      10.30 am. - Service for children.  
                         12.00 noon - Stations of the Cross.  
                         3.00 pm. – Liturgy of the Passion.

**Holy Saturday** – no services during the day  
                         9.00 pm Solemn Easter Vigil.

**Easter Sunday** – Masses at the usual times, including evening mass at 7.00 pm.

### **Church Cleaning Fest:**

You will appreciate that with all the dusty work going on in the church for the past few months, we’re in need of a thorough cleaning in preparation for celebrating Holy Week and Easter. We would greatly appreciate your assistance on Monday, 15th April, at 10.00am. Light refreshments will be served – for those who haven’t given them up for Lent! No sign-up sheet – just turn up on the day. Thanks.

### **Good Friday Procession of Witness:**

As well as our own Holy Week liturgies there will be the usual **Good Friday Procession of Witness** with Churches Together in Highgate, beginning at 9.30am from All Saints Church, Talbot Rd./Church Rd. and proceeding via St. Augustine’s Church on Archway Road and St. Joseph’s, to Pond Square URC Chapel for a service at 10.30am followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns.

### **Christian Stewardship and Lenten Project:**

Last week’s collection amounted to £1,373. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks also for your magnificent response to our Lenten Project in aid of Fr. Rick’s work in Haiti - £931 in total was donated last week, bringing the total to date to just over £4,500. We are very grateful for your outstanding generosity. This is the last Sunday, so an extra burst of generosity would be appreciated.

### **Charismatic Prayer Group:**

The Prayer Group will not meet during the Easter season. Meetings resume Tuesday 30th April 2019.

### **Posts Available in St. Joseph’s School:**

Due to an increase in demand, the Governors are seeking to appoint qualified and experienced School Playworkers at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School & Nursery to support our popular Breakfast Club. 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 term-time only scale 3 (hourly rate £12.49) hours: 7:45am - 8:45am and required ASAP. If you are interested in applying, please contact the school office [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk) for an application form.

### **Planned Giving Boxes:**

The new collection envelopes have now come into effect. If you haven’t already done so we invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes from the sacristy after any of the masses, or from the office during the week. If you haven’t had a box before but would like to start now, no problem – just let us know and a new number can be assigned to you. If you prefer to donate by standing order, forms can be obtained at the back of the church. The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by Gift-Aiding it – if you are a tax-payer. If you haven’t been doing so already, and are in a position to Gift-Aid, perhaps you might think of doing so now. Forms can be obtained at any time from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email.

### **The God Who Speaks**

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has designated 2020 a year of focus on *The God Who Speaks*. They are conducting a short survey about how Catholics see and use the Bible. They would like as many people as possible to complete the survey. They will repeat the survey at the end of 2020 and compare the results. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LDJBN5Y>.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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).