



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@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)

14th July 2019 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Even in a world that doesn't want to be called Christian any more, many very Christian phrases have become basic parts of our language. Everybody knows what we mean when we refer to someone as being a 'prodigal son', and similarly everyone is aware that it is a very high compliment to be referred to as a 'good Samaritan'. Among other things the universality of these stories illustrates how great a teacher Jesus really was. He used images that not only were familiar to the people he was addressing, but He also touched something in the core of their being that made them recognise that here was a quality, a virtue, not only to be admired, but to be aspired to by any decent person. (And I firmly believe that most people are decent!)

I recently came across a story that was being presented as an alternative presentation of the same message as the Good Samaritan story. It goes as follows - *A king who had no son to succeed him posted a notice inviting young men to come along and apply for adoption into his family. The two qualifications were love of God and love of neighbour. A poor peasant boy was tempted to apply, but felt unable to do so because of the rags he wore. He worked hard, earned some money, bought some new clothes, and headed off to try his luck at being adopted into the king's family.*

He was halfway there, however, when he came across a poor beggar on the road, who was shivering with the cold. The young lad felt sorry for him, and he exchanged clothes with him. There was hardly much point in going any further towards the king's palace at this stage, now that he was back in his rags again. However, the young man felt that, having come this far, he might as well finish the journey.

He arrived at the palace, and, despite the jeers and sneers of the courtiers, he was finally admitted into the presence of the king. Imagine his amazement to see that the king was the old beggar-man he had met on the road, and he was actually wearing the good clothes the young man had given him! The king got down from his throne, embraced the young man, and said "Welcome, my son!"

A nice story, you might say, and one with a decent moral – you never know how your good deed will be rewarded. But how long will you remember the story – will anybody hear of it in two thousand years time? I suspect not. You see, while the Good Samaritan story was a good story in itself, Jesus transformed it in the context of His teaching – “I tell you solemnly, **in so far as you did this to one of the least** of these brothers of mine, you did it to me”. Now it's not just my neighbour – and in the story everybody, even an 'enemy', is my neighbour – that I'm being kind to, but Jesus Himself, whom we are invited to see in all those in our world who are in need. What a wonderful message of encouragement and motivation to all decent people! No wonder the story has lasted the ages and is still such a favourite.

But Jesus didn't tell stories just to entertain, or even simply to teach. Above all they were intended to wake us up to the reality that faith isn't simply about knowing the facts, it's about living a kind of life that is inspired and raised to a higher level by putting that knowledge into practice. There's always that question – now you know it, what are you going to do about it? Well?

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We pray for those who have died recently – Fintan Breen (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 16th July, reception 5.00pm Monday), John Coathorpe (funeral 10.30am Thursday 18th July), Ricky Mazur, John Fitzgerald, Magella Sweeney, Mary Fitzpatrick; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Conleth O'Hara CP, Fr. Theodore Davey CP, Ann Flaherty, Con Antrobus.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,450. 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.

APF Red Boxes:

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes please bring them in next Sunday (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so we can count them all together. If you completed a *Missio* Gift Aid form please remember to fill in your details on the box label so that your donation can be identified. Please ask for a new box, available from the Sacristy.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 27th July & 3rd August) girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 10th August) and mixed (ages 9-11, week beginning 17th August), near Colchester in Essex. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See www.svpboscocamp.org.uk for details, or phone Ed 020 7272 2320 if interested.

Passage Garden Party:

Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 18 July, from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Tickets at £45 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper and live music. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite, or from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, operating the till and customer service. Full training will be given. You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so.** Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them - have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here.

Update on Works in the Church etc.:

At long last we have got rid of the, hopefully, final piece of scaffolding in the church for the foreseeable future. We haven't quite completed all the jobs – there are still some bits and pieces to be finished in the porch, and also in the side-chapel where serious water ingress over a long number of years had done serious damage to the parquet floor, requiring not just re-fixing of the tiles, but also replacing of tiles that had either been damaged or lost. There are other touch-ups and incidental work to be done – which hopefully will be finally sorted out at a meeting of the contractors and our architect during this coming week. So this is an appropriate time to thank you not only for all your patience over the last number of years, but also for your very generous financial backing of the work. Thanks particularly, but by no means exclusively, to those who supported the Growing in Faith campaign. Come September I hope that we'll be able to issue a more detailed report on the finances of the Parish – but at the moment I can assure you that your ongoing generosity, either through the collections or by standing order have kept our finances in good order. Thank you very much.