



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 October 2018 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

KOINONIA: The Last Forgotten Way

'Koinonia' is the last in the series of 'The Forgotten Ways'. It means active Christian Community. Koinonia evokes communion, love, support, joining together. "The smallest unit of health is a community." On physiological and psychological levels, connecting with others improves our health and our state of being. That is exactly what the church is proclaiming today by canonizing **Pope Paul VI** and **Mons. Oscar Romero**. So Koinonia is about doing life together!

There is a conspiracy for just about everything under the sun. The conspiracy theories are such a part of our culture. They exploit our neurotic tendencies towards suspicion and paranoia. And they prey on that fear that there really is some force conspiring against us. And there is a conspiracy theory for just about every unsolved mystery under the sun. From the mysterious death of a Pope to the untimely death of a Princess. Conspiracy theories abound! And when we gather together as Christians we are participating in a conspiracy of our own. That conspiracy began back in the Gospel of John when Jesus sat down with his disciples for his last supper. He says "I am going to leave you and another will come in my place, an advocate!" But all they heard was Jesus is leaving. And he will be absent. And it is one of those moments in the life of the disciples where they felt what you might call breathless! Like the wind had just been sucked out of them. We can easily relate to those moments in our lives where we felt breathless. The doctor says the word 'malignant'. The boss says the word 'lay off'. The phone rings at two in the morning and your heart races! And immediately you begin to think in your mind the worst case and you are out of breath. And it was like that for the disciples when Jesus said I am going away. And the next moment he was just gone. And they held their breath. But when it happened, not long after that day the church was born. A movement that birthed with the advent of the Holy Spirit. And they went out into the world doing incredible things. It all began when the Holy Spirit entered their breathless lives. This is what the breath of God did in the Book of Genesis. It swept across the disordered chaos of the universe and bringing forth life and beauty. It is the creation story, the birth story of a Community.

The word 'conspire' means breathe with or breathe together. We misuse and abuse the word. It was the breathing together of early Christians that formed this movement that changed the world. When they breathed together they breathed in the same spirit that swept across the waters of creation. In 'Communion', we breathe with one another. We are inheritors of the breath of God. We become part of this crazy radical conspiracy of love. When we breathe together we bring life out of chaos, courage out of fear. And it is a conspiracy to transform the world by forgiving our enemies, by raising the dead, by healing the broken, and by feeding the hungry.

When we breathe together we start to change the world. Awe came upon everyone. Many signs and wonders have been done. All who believed pooled their things together, had all things in common. They sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to those who had needs. They broke bread together with glad and generous hearts. We have been doing this for the last two thousand years. So celebrate this conspiracy of love that would change your lives; that would leave you with glad and generous hearts.

Fr. George

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We pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish - Kevin Redmond, Elizabeth Casey ; **we remember those who have died recently** – Nora Fitzgibbon (funeral 1.00pm Friday 19th October), Maria Bitner-Glindzicz (funeral 11.00am Tuesday 23rd October), Georgina Moriarity (funeral 11.00am Wednesday 24th October), Mary Patricia Gillen, Totore Risi; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Arthur Cross, Margaret (Peggy) Coyle, Michael Jakoby, David Stirling, Julia McIntyre, Mary Faherty, Annie Cardiff.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

The first session for the First Communion program for Group B starts this morning, 14th October. The groups have been allocated and details of schedules sent to parents/carers. The lists are also on the inner doors in the porch of the church.

Harvest Sunday:

This Sunday, 14th October, we are celebrating Harvest Sunday. It is still not too late to bring gifts of food for distribution to the poor of the area (long-dated non-perishable foodstuffs, e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, etc.).

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,368. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks again for your generous support of our parish.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery:

If your child is 3 years old or will be turning 3 in the Autumn /Spring Term, apply now for the school nursery. The school offers FREE part-time (8:40am -1:00pm) and FREE full time (8:40-3:15) nursery places for eligible children. Our fees for non-eligible children are £85 per week for half day sessions. Wrap around care is also offered subject to availability of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£10) until 6pm. Applications are available on the website or contact office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 17th October:

The next of our regular afternoon tea socials will be taking place this coming Wednesday, October 17th, from 2.00 to 3.30pm. 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.

Parish Diaries:

St. Joseph's Parish Diaries for next year are now available in the Repository, along with 2019 Calendars.

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course for adults interested in becoming Catholics will start shortly, provided we have enough applications before mid-October. The course is free. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com

Young Adult Meeting with Cardinal Nichols:

Calling all young people 18-30 years old for an evening of prayer and reflection with Cardinal Vincent on Tuesday 30 October 2018 from 7pm at Archbishop's House. The Cardinal will share his reflections from the Synod on Youth and there will be an opportunity for further dialogue. The event is free to attend but registration is required by email to youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Job Vacancies in St. Aloysius College:

St. Aloysius College has a number of vacancies in various posts – teaching, cleaning, etc. For more information and application forms, contact - mcdonagh.d@sta.islington.sch.uk .

Parish Bazaar – November 24th:

It's only 9 weeks away! It might appear strange to be announcing it this early, but as this is the only regular fund-raising event we have each year, and also one of our principle social events, it is important that people support it as best they can. Attendance has been increasing year on year, and feedback has been very positive. But we still have people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So **please put the date in your diary**, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

Concert for the Passage:

Please support the excellent work of The Passage homeless Day Centre by considering attending its annual concert *Night Under The Stars* at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 6 November at 7.30pm. This year's concert is entitled *Northern Lights* and features music by Grieg and Sibelius. For details and booking visit <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk> or telephone 020 3879 9555.