



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Fr. Pat ([pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto: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)

## 16th June 2019 – Trinity Sunday

### Mysterious Times

'Trinity Sunday' is a term that always evokes in my mind a phrase that was often used in my youth – "from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday". It comes from the days when it wasn't enough for us that we had the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament – we had another Six Commandment (or sometimes 'precepts') of the Church. One was that we must go to confession at least once a year, and another was that we should go to Holy Communion at least once a year. And "from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday" was the period within which 'especially' we were to make our annual Confession and receive our annual Communion. Now, there's a real mystery – how did the Church ever get itself into the position of suggesting that minimum standards might ever be in any way acceptable?

Last week we celebrated Pentecost, and were reminded of the miracle of the first Pentecost, whereby people from all kinds of different languages were able, each in their own language, to understand the preaching of the apostles, who presumably were all speaking Aramaic, or some such language of that place and time. And, to be honest, I've never really understood the widespread phenomenon of a number of years back, where people claimed to have the gift of tongues – but were 'speaking' sounds that nobody understood – seemed like the opposite of Pentecost to me. But then, that's just another of the mysteries that my poor mind can't comprehend.

I have a similar feeling about the Trinity – it doesn't make a lot of sense to me, especially mathematically, but that's not the same as saying that it's a nonsense. As the child reportedly replied to the Bishop – 'You're not meant to understand it – it's a mystery!' If I can't understand it, it's simply a reflection of the limitations of my mind, not a reflection of the truth of the mystery itself. And yet, probing ever deeper into that mystery is a rich source of understanding of the nature of love and life and community.

Mystery is not something our scientific world is too comfortable with, and yet aren't so many of the beautiful things in our world steeped in mystery. The mystery of a love that makes two hearts beat as one; the mystery of a baby's chuckle that lights up an entire room.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity, a mystery that is certainly not verifiable by common sense. If one were to continue the theme of what's gone before, it would be to say that the key to understanding the Trinity is to realise that we can never fully understand it. It is a mystery, which we come to terms with by Faith. Each time we make the sign of the cross we once again assert the reality of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and their unity in love. Each time we say the "Glory be.." we acknowledge the privilege it is for us to be given a share in their divine life, and to be the object of their love. Living the mystery is bringing that life and that love to our homes, and everything we do.

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**We pray for those who have died recently** – Eileen Flanagan, Kathleen Bridget Gill, Janice Broad; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Michael Connor, Sr. Bernardine Spink OSA, Connell McDwyer, Eddie Nolan, Ellen Ryan, Jorge Fenton, Phyllis Hogan. We also pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Denis Patrick Watters RIP formerly Parish Priest at St. Gabriel's. Funeral Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 12noon at the church of St Gregory the Great, South Ruislip. Requiem Mass at St. Gabriel's, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, at 7.00pm.

### **First Communions:**

At the 12.00 Masses this Sunday and next just less than sixty of our young people will be making their First Holy Communions. This naturally means that there will be a great increase in the numbers attending those Masses. Those who regularly attend the 12 o'clock Mass are of course very welcome to come. We just want to forewarn you that the entire front portion of the church will be reserved for the children and their families, and we expect that there will also be much crowding in the rear section of the church. So you might want to consider coming to a less crowded celebration on those two Sundays, but if you're prepared to endure the crowding – and admire the fashion! – you are most welcome to attend.

**Group B** will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 23rd June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 22nd.

### **Shared International Lunch:**

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who turned up, and many of whom brought food with them, for the wonderful international lunch that we had last Sunday to mark the feast of Pentecost. In general the weather isn't very summery these times, but we were blessed with a beautiful day, so that people could spread out into the garden to relax and enjoy good company and good food. And we were blessed with a wide selection of food from all over the world. A very special thank you to Paula and her family, and Roxane, for all the preparatory work they put in to making it such a huge success. And commiserations to all the unfortunate people who for one reason or another weren't able to be there – make sure you get your diary in order for next year – remember, Feast of Pentecost, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020!

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,471. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

### **Volunteering Opportunity in Lourdes:**

Could you be a Lourdes helper? The Lourdes pilgrimage team are looking to recruit volunteers to lend medical and practical support for the pilgrimage from 20th to 26th July 2019. If interested, please contact the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office at Vaughan House on 0207 798 9173 or email [westminsterfrai@gmail.com](mailto:westminsterfrai@gmail.com) or [lourdes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdow.org.uk).

### **Mary's Meals:**

A big 'thank you' to St Joseph for your donations to Mary's Meals' Rags to Riches collection on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We're delighted to say that the parish managed to give 180 kg of unwanted clothes making a total contribution of £100.80. The amount raised will feed 7 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. Mary's Meals is very grateful for your support.

### **Open Evening – St Michael's, Finchley:**

The Open Evening for Admissions 2020 to St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019. There are two sessions on the 27<sup>th</sup> June; 3:30pm until 5:00pm and 7:00pm until 9:00pm. The Headteacher will address prospective parents at 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

### **Highgate Summer: Evening of Readings & Music:**

You are invited to come and celebrate the Music and Words of famous Highgate writers and composers here at St. Joseph's this Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm. There will be readings from the works of Dickens, Manley Hopkins, Marvell and others, as well as choral favourites from our wonderful Choir, and organ music from our director of music Alberto Brigandi. Refreshments will be served. All Welcome, no charge. This is being celebrated as part of the Highgate Festival.

### **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.

### **Catholic Grandparents:**

A Catholic Grandparents group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month 4.30-5.30pm in the Hinsley Room at Westminster Cathedral (access via Morpeth Terrace).