



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

e-mail: [joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com) : website: [www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@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 September 2018 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Kerygma; Another Forgotten Way

We have been looking at the Forgotten Ways of the ancient church. This is a remarkable story of social, cultural, and religious transformation. It began with a small group of about twelve people from the far corner in Palestine. And over the course of about 350 years grew to become a movement of more than fifteen million people by the time Christianity was legalized in Rome. The question for us is what kind of people were these early Christians? What was it about them that drew the world to them? The essential practices that fuelled and made the early church so vital, might revitalize our own faith in the twenty first century. We looked at three of these practices so far in our series. 'Didache' is about emulating the nature and character of Christ. The second practice is 'Leitourgia'. Once a week the early Christians pulled themselves away from the ways of the empire to worship. 'Diakonia' was modelled after the humble and selfless acts of Jesus that seeks to restore the wholeness of the world.

And today we look at the fourth in the series; 'Kerygma'. It is a Greek word which means Proclamation. We are used to proclamations accompanied by trumpet blaring and megaphones. But the Christian proclamation means witness. The question is how do you live your life in such a way that others see the redemptive power of God in the world.

Sometimes you are called to use words to do that. Sometimes we simply use our hands, our feet, our presence, our creativity, like organ, guitar, and choir. We do not always have to use words to witness. As St. Francis of Assisi would put it, "preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary use words." We do not always have to speak to be a witness. "Our call as witnesses is to tear off a little corner of darkness in this world. So that we can let in little light."

It is all about game-changing moments in our lives. The moments in which something happened and in retrospect you are not the same again. The experiences we had when we just happened to be at the right place, at the right time and something clicked and it changed everything. Maybe you found yourself at the crossroads in your life, you had to choose between two ways. And you chose the right way and it made all the difference. Maybe you had one of those moments in which the window of opportunity opened and it was only opened for a moment and you had to seize it and you did and it changed everything. What do you call moments like that? Game-changing moments, life-changing moments, or turning points!

But in the Bible, they are called Kairos moments. Kairos is the Greek word that refers to the right time, the opportune time. The ancient Greeks believed that history consisted of two kinds of times. In the Chronos time the world is made up of events that seem disordered, random - but when we string them together they make up a day, a year, a life time. But history is made in Kairos moments. In these moments, opportunity presents itself. Moments of potential impossibility. Moments do not last forever. Some people call them moments of destiny. But the Bible calls them God's appointed time of purpose; something is about to happen.

Fr. George, C.P.

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**We remember those who have died recently** – Kathleen Crowe (funeral 1.00pm Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September), Frances Mary Daly, Thomas Finnegan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Perry Clune, George & Annie Mallon, Eugene Lambe, Denis O'Leary, Margaret MacDonogh.

### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation:**

Application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example. Completed forms for the First Communion program must be returned by **30th September**, at the latest. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time. The first session will be **7th October** for Group A, and **14th October** for Group B - groups will be allocated and details sent to parents/carers by **2nd October**.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,630. 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.

### **Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 19th September:**

The next of our regular afternoon tea socials will be taking place this coming Wednesday, September 19th, 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.

### **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](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:**

The RCIA course – which is principally intended – but not exclusively – for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com) Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

### **Parish Bazaar – November 24th:**

We don't seem to be properly back into a new year as yet, and already we are beginning the countdown to our Christmas Bazaar – it's only 11 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. You will readily appreciate how disheartening it can be for the volunteers who give so generously of their time if on the actual day there is a disappointing attendance. Thank God that hasn't been the case in recent years. 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](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com)

### **Prayer Group:**

The Charismatic Prayer Group meetings resume (after the Summer break) this Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 pm in the Monastery. Everyone 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 Tuesday 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](mailto:stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com) if you would be interested in volunteering.