



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

## 17th June 2018 – 11th Sunday of the Year The Simple Things in Life!

I've always admired the integrity and plain common-sense of the child who, when asked what he would like to be when he grew up, answered "Big". Sometimes I think we make life far too complicated for ourselves, rather than keeping it simple. Now that the World Cup has begun, we're going to be subjected to endless hours of discussion as to what tactics the various teams are going to use – how they will adapt to the expected tactics of the various teams they will be opposing. (Personally I skip that part of the program – arrive for the kick-off, go and check emails at half-time, and go to the News when it's over!) Again I remember the answer given by the Brazilian coach away back in the last century when asked what tactics he would be using going into the world cup, said "we'll try to score more goals than our opponents!"

And I think for most of us we tend to be simple in our needs. It's all very well having a special meal on special occasions, but give us our "meat and two veg" as our staple diet – or simply two veg if you that way inclined! We're happy to dress up for those special events, but prefer to be wearing what we feel comfortable in – do I hear dressing-gown and slippers? – whenever we can. I suppose maybe an extreme example of what I'm talking about is that oft-repeated scene of – maybe favourite uncle, or doting god-mother, desperately trying to get a child to play with the beautiful gift they've bought instead of being totally absorbed in the wrapping paper!

There's a very simple thing at the heart of our gospel today, which recounts two parables about seeds. What could be simpler than tiny seeds? And yet we know that from tiny seeds huge plants can grow. Going even further, scientists nowadays tell us that this huge, complicated, massively varied world that we live in all developed from one power-packed atom – away smaller than any seed. I'm no scientist and am prepared to accept what the experts tell us – though I think they're sometimes slightly undermined by the fact that their theories constantly change –develop? – but if we did come from that energy-packed atom that went off with a 'big bang', where did that atom come from, and who packed the energy into it?

But let's not get bogged down in science. Which, as it happens, is one of the points being underlined by Jesus in today's gospel. We don't need to understand how seeds grow in order to appreciate the beautiful flowers they produce, or the tasty fruit we can eat. And very often that's where we can go wrong in our relationships with one another and with God. Understanding God is way beyond us, but the extent of his love for us is readily evident in his freely giving of his life so that we might be saved. As for understanding others – there's only one person that we have full access to, ourselves, and we're not very good at even understanding ourselves at times!

Our celebration of First Communions this week-end and next are an opportunity to reflect on these mysteries. Yes, there will be family celebrations and so on that the children will be looking forward to, but they also have a very real sense that this is something very special. Remember that feeling? How well has that seed of appreciation of the Eucharistic sacrament developed in us? We don't need to understand the complicated theology or 'transubstantiation', simply to realise that this is a special nourishment and support the Lord has given us so that we may grow in goodness and love. Nothing could be bigger, or simpler.

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** – Jennifer Roberts, Oliver Columb; **we remember those who have died recently** – Lisa McCarthy (funeral 12 noon Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, reception 5.30pm Thursday), Michael Fox, Pat Dineen, Patrick (Frank) Murphy, Michael Forkan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Cardinal Basil Hume OSB, Fr. Michael Connor, Connell McDwyer, May MacDonogh, Joseph MacDonogh, Phyllis Hogan.

### **Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 20th June:**

You may remember back in March we held an afternoon tea and social for those interested, with a particular welcome for senior members of the parish and those who would like to spend more time enjoying the companionship of other parishioners. It went very well at the time, with all present being anxious that we continue with such events. It's taken us a bit of time, but at last we're able to announce that we hope to be able to run these teas and socials on a monthly basis, on the third Wednesday of each month, so that it won't clash with events in the community centre. The first of these monthly gatherings will be **this** Wednesday, June 20th, at 2.00pm. If you know of people who might wish to come, perhaps you could speak to them and check if they would like to come, and if they would need help in getting here.

### **First Communions:**

At the 12.00 Masses today and next week, fifty-five 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, 24<sup>th</sup> June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,524. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity.

### **Multi-faith Pilgrimage for Peace:**

The 33rd annual Multi-faith Pilgrimage for Peace, organized by Westminster Interfaith takes place on Saturday 23rd June from 9am beginning at Altab Ali Park by Aldgate East Station. The day includes visits to places of worship including a mosque, a Hindu temple, a Gurdwara, a university chaplaincy, a couple of churches and an Orthodox synagogue for the Shabbat service. Lunch provided. Booking essential with Deacon Jon Dal Din at [jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jondaldin@rcdow.org.uk). Booking forms available from Parish Office.

### **World Youth Day 2019:**

The next World Youth Day takes place in Panama, January 2019. The diocesan Youth Ministry team will be taking a group of young adults to Panama, from ages 18-35. If any young people in the parish are interested in joining the pilgrimage, they are invited to contact [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). Bursaries of up to 50% of the cost are available. Spaces are limited. Hence, interested youth are requested to contact Youth Ministry asap.

### **Charismatic Prayer Group:**

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not be meeting this week Tuesday 19th June. We're back the following week as usual Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June onwards. Do join us Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Monastery to praise God. We are also an intercessory group offering up to God prayers you request for your intentions.

### **Mary's Meals Clothes Collection:**

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

### **An Invitation to Young Adults from the Cardinal:**

The Cardinal invites young adults, aged 18 to 30, to join him at Archbishop's House for three meetings (15th May, 29th May, **19th June**, all at 6.30pm) to explore the theme of vocation, with an opportunity for prayer, input, discussion and question and answer. The second meeting has already taken place, but all are welcome to attend whichever meetings they are able. More details can be found on the youth section of the diocesan website ([www.dowym.com](http://www.dowym.com)). If you would like to come along, please let them know by sending a quick email to [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk).

### **Children's Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> 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 holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.