



# 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)

## 18th November 2018 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Signs of the Times

I wouldn't describe myself as a major fan of watching the news, but generally I do like to bring the day to a close by catching up with a summary of its principle events. I'll be honest – there's been a lot of temptation lately to just forget it, and head for the bed. Do I really want to hear another extended report on what has really become a shambles? Whether one is for or against Brexit, it's becoming clearer and clearer that there doesn't appear to be any version of it that looks likely to have enough support to win a majority in the governing party, in the parliament, or in the country. The political journalists must be thinking that all their Christmases have come at once. (If you want to get the same feeling, perhaps you should make sure you get to the Christmas Bazaar next Saturday – lots of enjoyment to be had in meeting with fellow-parishioners, collecting your prizes from the Grand Raffle, anticipating getting home to enjoy your haul from the bottle stall, with total freedom to talk all the nonsense you want. Sorry – skip the last bit – none of our parishioners would talk nonsense!)

I wonder how many of our politicians will be reading the Gospel for this Sunday? They might find it helpful, or not, in terms of their problem – trying to read the “signs of the times”. In terms of our faith, it is a phrase that is used to highlight the need to be able to *apply* the principles of our faith to the concrete situations of our present world. Some, very mistakenly, have understood it to mean *adapting* the principles of our faith to the concrete situations of our world. This has been a great pity, and has done great damage to the unity of our church, and led to a lessening of respect in some quarters for its teaching authority. Rather than rejoicing in the very positive renewal that was initiated by the Vatican Council, many bemoan the passing of the “old certainties” that in reality weren't all that certain any more.

But reading the signs of the times isn't simply an exercise reserved to church Councils – our gospel today reminds us that it is a necessity – not an option – for all of us. And the same danger of misunderstanding exists still – that rather than asking how I apply my faith to my present circumstances I may be tempted to ask how do I adapt my faith to them. And at this time of the year there are many “signs of the times” that we can read. On your way to church today you probably had to tread carefully through the leaves that can be a particularly slippery hazard at this time of year. If you've been driving to and from work you've probably have had to have your headlights on. All signs that we're fast approaching the end of another year.

It's a pity in a way that we should think of commemorating the dead at the end of the year – it's in grave danger of giving off a wrong signal – as if ‘death’, and ‘the end’, were synonymous. Jesus invites us to look at a different set of signs if we want to think of death, and the end of the world. He reminds us that when the sap starts rising in plants, and the leaves start to appear, that's a sign that *summer* is here – note, not winter! That's the reminder that Jesus is near, at the gates. Death is a time of growth, of fulfilment – the fulfilment of His promises – the time when His word will be our life – that Word that will never pass away.

So ‘reading the signs of the times’ is really inviting us to see whether that Word is truly alive in our world, and particularly in our own lives. And that Word can be summed up simply as LOVE. And of course we'd love to see you at the Bazaar next Saturday. Forget about Brexit for a while!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, particularly – Michael Brereton; we remember those who have died recently – Sr. Christine Vincenti OSA; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Ann, Stephen, Dudley & Abbie Flaherty, Michael & Kathleen Boylan, James Pender, John McDonnell, Gladys Ryan.**

### **Christmas Bazaar: \*\*\* Next Saturday – 24th November! \*\*\* 11.00-3.00pm in the Parish Centre**

The eagerly awaited day is nearly upon us, and once again we will be getting under way at the earlier start time of 11.00am - come early and browse the stalls before enjoying some lunch. We will have all the usual favourites, including the ever popular Irish Coffee! **And again this year – BBNWT:** Is your wardrobe full of clothes and shoes you have bought but never worn and still have their tags on? If so please consider donating them to our bazaar for our **Bought But Never Worn with Tags** stall! But we still need a lot more BOTTLES for the Tombola and 'nice' goods for the stalls - please give what you can. This year we will have our own specially labelled St. Joseph's Christmas Puddings, but we also need HOME MADE CAKES, buns, biscuits, jams and preserves for the cake stall - please bake this week! We need labelled PLANTS for the plant stall. You may bring cakes and plants to the Monastery on Friday, or to the actual stalls on the day. And if you would like to help in any way there is still time to volunteer, please contact Cheryl on felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.

Finally we look forward to seeing you, your family and friends there next Saturday. We have plenty of activities for children, and we have it on very good authority that Santa will be there! So please come along, have a great time, and make this year's Bazaar the successful social event it has always been.

#### **Grand Raffle:**

We can appreciate that you have many calls on your time, and inevitably there will be some who, despite their greatest desire, will not be able to be at the Bazaar. But do not panic! You can still participate in the Grand Raffle which will take place on the day, with so many prizes that it would appear impossible not to win! Tickets will be on sale after all the masses this week-end, still at the pre-Budget price of £1 each. "Too late, too late" will be the cry, when those with the prizes pass you by!

#### **November Dead List:**

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are still available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

#### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,460. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

#### **Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November:**

The next of our regular afternoon tea socials will be taking place this coming Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **Keeping Our Church Clean:**

Our next cleaning day will be at 10am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November to get the church looking good for our Advent and Christmas events (we hope to finish by 1pm). Everyone welcome, suitably fortifying refreshments will be served! Those who can be available on the day can either email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com or call 020 7263 6831 or just turn up and join the fun.

#### **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](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk)

#### **Christmas at the Repository:**

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2019 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.

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

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) We remind you of the difficulties that sometimes people have in contacting hospital chaplains. 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.** You should also state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many hospitals – including the Whittington - have full-time chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients as needed. Should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please call upon myself or another of the priests here.