



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)

19th May 2019 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Praise and Justice

Today we are looking at our Responsorial Psalm; Psalm 145. This psalm is attributed to King David and is classified as a hymn of praise. However, many scholars hold to the idea that the book of Psalms tells the story of the people of Israel and that they are ordered the way they are for a reason. With this understanding, this psalm is dealing with the time that the Israelites have returned from exile in Babylon and are learning how to live in the land of Israel again under Persian rule. This was an uncertain time for the people and it was a time when they were working to re-learn what it meant to live as the people of God in their land again.

This particular psalm is written as an acrostic, which means that each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet beginning with the first letter. This literary device serves two main purposes. The first is quite practical — it is a memory device. A thing is easier to remember if you have some kind of order you can follow. The second is, that by using each letter of the alphabet, there is a sense that the psalm covers everything from A-Z. It gets it all in there; it is a psalm of wholeness; it is a total and complete praise of God. This device is used in many places in Hebrew scripture for similar purposes.

This Psalm begins with David, the king, praising God as king. Now, it could be that a later author attributed this work to David or that a psalm of King David was utilized to talk about a time period long after King David actually lived. Either way, you have a king giving praise to God and saying that God is the actual king and the one that is to be praised, especially in uncertain times. God is praised for being loving and merciful and compassionate. And God is praised for bringing justice for all. The psalmist says, “The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.”

As people who live in vulnerable times, I think we often forget that most of the stories of scripture were told about people who lived on the margin, people who often suffered at the hands of others, and people who lived very aware of their dependence on God. We are not marginalized as these people were. Yet, in many ways we do live in uncertain times. And in such a time the psalmist calls us to praise God as a solution. Lifting God up as the one who is the ruler, protector, and provider is an antidote to the despair that can so often come in difficult and confusing times.

Yet through scripture the message is consistent that the people of God are called upon to participate with God's work of love, mercy, and justice in the world — and so, when we lift our voices in praise to God for all the ways God is worthy to be praised, we must also ask, “God, how can we help those who are falling? How can we raise up any who are bowed down? How can we care for and feed and satisfy every living thing you have created?” For when we lift our voices in praise to the God of Justice, we are called out to be a part of that justice in the world.

What images come to mind when you hear someone talk about praising God and why?

What most draws you into an experience of worship and why?

What are some things going on in your life that might affect the way you praise God?

What does it mean to you to “praise a just God from the wrong side of justice” and why?

By what means might we find ways to get over our own barriers and really worship God?

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We pray for those who have died recently – Amanda Stapleton, Peter Soul, Eamon Kiely; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Carmel Morris, Tom Lucitt, Joaquim Lobo, May Miranda, Patrick Pender, Mary Deeley (née Hawkins), Clare Anderson, Alfred Benfeld, Jim & Kitty Press.

Aid To The Church In Need:

There will be an appeal at all Masses this weekend on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. Aid to the Church in need is a Pontifical charity which works in 140 countries, helping persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world through prayer, information and action. As the Sri Lanka attacks show, Christians worldwide face serious persecution. During the past century, Christianity has been all but driven out of the Middle East, the place of its birth. Christian communities in Syria and Iraq who were forced out of their towns and villages by the extremist group Daesh (ISIS) now have a chance to return home to rebuild their livelihoods. They need our help as the cost of rebuilding is a huge undertaking. These families have had to give up everything for their faithfulness to Christ. Aid to the Church in Need is asking us to support these families in Sri Lanka, Syria and Iraq until it is safe for them to rebuild their lives and communities. If you wish to get involved in the charity, please contact John on 07727442510 john.ravi@acnuk.org or go to www.acnuk.org.

Confirmations:

Next week-end, at the 7 o'clock mass on Saturday, 25th May, 24 of our young parishioners will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Nicholas Hudson. We thank our young people who have taken this important step in proclaiming and strengthening their faith, and pray for their continued growth in the Spirit. And a very special word of thanks to Cheryl who has prepared them for this wonderful day.

A reminder to the candidates that the final session of their Confirmation program is this Sunday, May 19th, at 5.00pm, followed by 7.00pm Mass, and this is compulsory for those candidates who are due to be Confirmed on May 25th. Confirmation names and names of sponsors need to be finalised. The rehearsal will take place at 7.00pm this Wednesday May 22nd.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch on Sunday, 9th June, at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, (summer will be here by then!) spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is our third year to celebrate Pentecost in this way. Our celebration is designed to encourage people to build up a real sense of community in our Parish, by getting to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. If you were one of the lucky ones who managed to be here for previous celebrations you will remember what a wonderful success they were, and what an amazing variety of food was contributed. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country of origin, and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,495. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support your Parish.

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, 2nd June, 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.

Highgate Festival Ceili:

St Joseph's Parish Centre will be hosting a Ceili on Friday June 14th, 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm as part of the Highgate Festival. Live band, great caller who knows how to lead beginners as well as experts, home made food and we're also hoping for an Irish Dancing display. Bring your dancing shoes or come along to listen and for the Craic! All ages welcome. £7.50 early bird tickets/concessions Tickets £10 on the night- any money raised will go towards the heating system to the Parish Centre. For tickets please contact Cheryl - felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.

Christus Vivit: Reflections for Young Adults:

A further meeting of young adults at Archbishop's House will take place on Tuesday 21st May, 6.30pm. These meetings are an opportunity for young adults to come together, pray, have input from one of our diocesan bishops, reflect and discuss the place of faith in the life of young people. Bishop John Wilson will be leading our reflections, this time focusing on the recently published exhortation from Pope Francis addressed to young people. All young adults are invited to attend. Please let us know your intention to attend by emailing youth@rcdow.org.uk. For more details, go to www.dowym.com/events