



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

20th January 2019 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ABUNDANCE, BLESSINGS, AND POSSIBILITIES

By now most people have begun and maybe, quit their New Year's resolutions. Though I am sure that is not the case for any of you. I have a tendency, to avoid New Year's resolutions. Because I myself find them a challenge to keep. I guess, I just work in different ways toward my goals. In the gospel for today Jesus starts out with a goal to avoid his mother's orders. But ultimately Jesus is like any good son and listens to what she told him to do. Maybe even Jesus knew that mother knows best!

The text comes from the gospel of John 2:1-11. It is the story of Jesus turning the water into wine. And some of us are historically more comfortable with the wine in the story than others. However there really is no denying the wine Jesus produced at this wedding was wine of the fermented kind. And culturally he would not have made anything different. They were at the third day of this wedding feast. Think about that people. There had already been enough wine at the shindig for three full days of celebration. And the wine was a sign of blessing, harvest, and abundance. When the wine ran out, so did the blessing and abundance; at least it ran out symbolically. So, no one wanted it to run out prematurely. If the wine had run out today, we might say it is the ultimate party fail! And so, like a good semi-meddling mother, Mary tells Jesus to fix it. And though he did protest, he eventually succumbed to his mother and made the impossible happen. So, as we think about it a few things I want to point out.

First, this is the third day of the wedding feast. Now the third days are kind of important in Scripture. It was on a third day that the lost child Jesus was found in the temple. And again, Jesus takes three days to reach the tomb of Lazarus to raise him up. Finally, it was on the third day when it seemed as if all possibility of hope, freedom, love, and joy had been buried with Jesus; it was on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. Again, making the impossible happen. So, the third day is the fringes of human expectations and the right time or the 'hour' set by God. Also, on that night that Jesus sat with his disciples for the last time he shared the bread with them and then shared the cup of wine with them and he told them that every time they drank of it to do it in remembrance of him. For he was the one who would pour out his own life for them and bring salvation to the world. Abundance of good wine is an eschatological symbol, a sign of the joyous arrival of God's new age. And thus Jesus made wine the symbol of blessing, abundance and the symbol of possibility. And when Jesus is around all things are possible. Blessing is always available and abundance is ours when he is around.

TIK TOK

What kinds of things happen on third days in scripture, and why might the writer have chosen to include this detail? Try to spend some time with Him with 'The Third Days' of your life?

Why do you think Mary was so insistent in bringing Jesus into the situation?

Why might Jesus have been reluctant to do as his mother asked?

Why do you think the writer stated that Jesus chose to use water, instead of just making the wine appear somehow?

Fr. George C.P.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, particularly – Thomas Flynn; **we remember those who have died recently** –Noel O'Donoghue (funeral 10.30am Monday 21st January), James Lynch (funeral 12.00am Tuesday 22nd January), Dorothy Breen (funeral 12.30pm Friday 1st February), Betty Casey (Mother of Mike Casey), Florence Cass, Martin Shannon; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Sr. Siobhan Shelley CP, Sr.Helen McChesney OSA, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Dudley Fox, Robert Robson, Patricia O'Keefe, Hannah Kyne, Mary & Rose Gardiner, Maureen Hoctor, Catherine Harrington, Jeremiah Harrington, Matty Ryan.

Repair of Calvary:

As many of you will have noticed our beautiful Calvary outside the church was seriously damaged through natural wear and tear, leading eventually to the collapse of the figure of Our Lady. As the other figures – Jesus and St. John – are similarly damaged, and unlikely to survive much longer it was considered wiser at this time to replace all three figures.

The Parish Council has been looking into this for some time. We were rather surprised at how difficult it was to find anyone in this country who could supply replacements. Finally we have tracked down a company in the Liverpool area who are willing and able to supply the figures that are illustrated on this page. The figures are approximately four inches smaller than the originals, but this can be counter-acted



by slightly raising the base. The cost for making and painting the figures would be £2,646, plus around £250 to transport them to London, plus whatever cost to put them in position. We would like to have it all completed by Easter, but would also like your opinion before going ahead. So you're invited to a meeting in the Red Room at 7.30pm tomorrow, Monday – or feel free to email Fr. Pat at PFCP44@YAHOO.COM

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,605. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

100 Club:

The January draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. We particularly remind those who pay annually or 6-monthly that it is the start of a new year. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

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 Friday 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 if you would be interested in volunteering.

300th Anniversary of Passionists:

To mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Passionist Order – of which much more later in the year – Fr. Ben from our community here in St. Joseph's has produced a short life of the Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. This is on sale in the repository, price: £1-50.

Works in Church:

You will no doubt have noticed as you entered the church today that a major portion of the porch has been cut off, and the bottom right-hand quarter of our seats have been taped off. You may have noticed that the pews in that section have been sanded, which is the first stage of the more general refurbishment that will be taking place with all the seating in the church. Once they are thoroughly cleaned, any necessary repair work will be done, they will all be French-polished, and finally fixed to the floor. In the meantime the porch is being refurbished and redecorated. The false ceiling has been removed, the walls will be painted in the same colours as the main body of the church, and new notice boards will be placed on the walls – with the over-all effect, we hope, of providing a more welcoming area for people coming through our doors. The scheduled time for all the work is 10 weeks.