



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)

21st July 2019 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Choosing the Better Part

It's interesting that the origin of the word 'holiday', not surprisingly is 'holy day' – not that many people would necessarily associate holiday time with any form of holiness. Although, when we understand 'holy' to mean 'sacred' we tend to agree more – yes, having holidays is, as it were, one of our sacred rights. We tend to live very busy lives nowadays, so maybe it's time for all of us to relax a little more, and hopefully get into the mood for holidays. With schools being closed it is an opportunity for families to spend, as they say, some quality time together.

I'm sure you've noticed over the years how people's approach to holidays can differ so much. Some people see it as a time to do those things that they don't generally have time for – like travelling abroad (using their Irish passports in future??) or doing that hill-walking week in the Peak District, or something equally energetic that makes me tired to even think about. I've known friends to come back from their holidays declaring that they need a holiday to recover from the one they've had! Others like to just go somewhere – or even stay at home! – and just relax, maybe with family or friends, and slow down from the frantic pace of their normal lives.

It's not for me to say what kind of holiday anyone should take, but I just take this opportunity to pray that you all manage to get some time over the next while to spend time away from the normal routines of life and, as it were, re-charge the batteries and take time for yourselves and your loved ones to grow in your appreciation of one another. An appreciation, one might say, that was somewhat lacking between Martha and Mary in today's Gospel passage! Martha was not at all happy that all the work was being left to her, and Mary was basically on holiday. Some think Jesus is putting Martha down, but that would be to misunderstand Him. His use of "Martha, Martha" is an indication of His concern for her, and her apparent inability to just relax for a while and enjoy His company. After all, His presence there as he was on His way to Jerusalem to face what awaited Him, was a clear indication of how important their friendship was to Him. Their home, their warmth and hospitality, are a kind of oasis of peace and quiet, of rest and relaxation, and of calm, quiet conversation.

Martha is a good, kind and generous woman. But here is one of the problems of life. So often we want to be kind to people but in our own way, by giving them what we assume they want. But when we discover that they have other ideas and put us off, we may take offence, and we may complain that our love and generosity are not appreciated. This is to forget that being truly kind to another is to become aware of what she or he really needs. Sustaining relationships in general and friendships in particular requires sensitivity to what the other really wants, and to what the other needs more than anything else. With our fellow human beings, there's a time for action, and there's a time for reflection. There's a time for doing and there's a time for being. There's a time for talking and there's a time for listening. There's a time for noise, and there's a time for silence. There's a time for work, and a time for relaxation. Mary was able to relax in the presence of Jesus – and hopefully that's what you will be able to enjoy over this holiday period. May it be truly a blessed, holy, sacred, precious time for you.

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We pray for those who have died recently – John Francis White (funeral 10.30am Monday 22nd July), Ave Guselli (funeral 11.00am Friday 9th August), Fintan Breen, John Coathorpe, Seedorf Ben Anugo; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Peter Marley, Rita Smith.

Summer Break:

As you will see from the preponderance of repeat notices below we are struggling to keep the Bulletin going now that so many people are away and so little is happening. So we may as well face up to the reality and send the Bulletin on holiday as well! In other words, this will be our last bulletin until the start of September, so we take this opportunity to wish you all a well-earned holiday during these coming weeks, and we look forward to seeing you again in September when, no doubt, fully refreshed, with batteries recharged, you will be ready once again to play your part in making St. Joseph's such a special place.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,401. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

100 Club:

The July 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. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

APF Red Boxes:

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes please bring them in next Sunday (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so we can count them all together. If you completed a *Missio* Gift Aid form please remember to fill in your details on the box label so that your donation can be identified. Please ask for a new box, available from the Sacristy.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 27th July & 3rd August) girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 10th August) and mixed (ages 9-11, week beginning 17th 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 other holiday this year. See www.svpboscocamp.org.uk for details, or phone Ed 020 7272 2320 if interested.

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, operating the till and customer service. Full training will be given. You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.

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

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. 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**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them - have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here.

Update on Works in the Church etc.:

At long last we have got rid of the, hopefully, final piece of scaffolding in the church for the foreseeable future. We haven't quite completed all the jobs – there are still some bits and pieces to be finished in the porch, and also in the side-chapel where serious water ingress over a long number of years had done serious damage to the parquet floor, requiring not just re-fixing of the tiles, but also replacing of tiles that had either been damaged or lost. There are other touch-ups and incidental work to be done – which hopefully will be finally sorted out at a meeting of the contractors and our architect during this coming week. So this is an appropriate time to thank you not only for all your patience over the last number of years, but also for your very generous financial backing of the work. Thanks particularly, but by no means exclusively, to those who supported the Growing in Faith campaign. Come September I hope that we'll be able to issue a more detailed report on the finances of the Parish – but at the moment I can assure you that your ongoing generosity, either through the collections or by standing order have kept our finances in good order. Thank you very much.