



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 : website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

23rd June 2019 – Corpus Christi

“In Remembrance of Me”

I spent last week with my family and friends for the funeral of my brother-in-law. During those days we gathered around the table in remembrance. We gathered around the table at the home of a family member and ate and talked. We re-membered. Then we went to the church and gathered around the table and ate and drank in remembrance. And then we went into the parish hall and you know what we did? We again gathered around the table in remembrance, and we ate some more and talked some more. And when we got home, you know what we did. We gathered around the table to eat and drink in remembrance.

It's always about the table and remembrance. Every time there is a death or a loss we gather around the table to eat and drink in remembrance. But it's not limited to deaths. What do we do at a wedding? We gather around the table to eat and drink in remembrance – first at the church and then again at the reception. We gather around the table in remembrance for First Communion, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations. We do it with friends and family. We gather around the table in remembrance to mark our losses, celebrations, and transitions in life.

Every one of our readings for 'The Corpus Christi' has two common themes: the table and remembrance. In the first reading we hear about the sacrifice of Melchizedek; remembering the great acts of the God Most High. In the second reading we hear how, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered his disciples around the table offered his body and blood and said, "Do this in remembrance of me." And the Gospel of the multiplication of loaves and fish brings to our mind the remembrance of the providential love of Yahweh, who rained Manna every morning in the wilderness.

Think about a time when you gathered around the table in remembrance. Where was the table? Who was there? Who wasn't there? What was the conversation about? What was your remembrance as you gathered around that table? How did they affect you and put your life back together again? It seems to me that we are always gathering around the table in remembrance. It's just something we do. It feels right and natural, holy, and important. I want to be clear that remembrance is not simply about recalling the past, returning to the past, or recreating the past. Remembrance has the ability to take the past and bring it into the present moment and let it have a continuing effect and impact on our lives. It's the aperture into a new and larger life. We move forward through remembrance of the past. There is something within us that hungers for remembrance and knows that remembrance has the ability to feed and nourish life. That's why we gather around the table to eat and drink in remembrance. Whether within or outside of the church we are always eating and drinking in remembrance.

Remembrance has a way of putting us back together again. The opposite of re-membering is not forgetting but dis-membering. Remembrance is a condition of the heart. It's a way of being in the world and relating to one another. The reason we re-member so much and so often is because as we re-member our faith is strengthened and fortified. We create a reserve. Our remembrances are the experience of faith renewed, emboldened, and made real. That's why on those hard days of loss and sadness we gather around the table to re-member. That remembrance carries us through the sorrows. And that's why on those happy days we gather around the table to re-member. That remembrance fills us with gratitude and opens our eyes to the beauty of the world, the wonder of life, and the mystery of love.

Fr. George

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We pray for those who have died recently – Magella Sweeney; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Mary Barulis, Edward Organ, Michael Fox, Mary Deeley, José Manrique, P.J.Hogan, Julia Ita Hearn.

First Communions:

At the 12 o'clock Mass this Sunday the second of our two groups of children will be receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. This is a very special occasion for our young people and their families, and so we ask you to keep them especially in your prayers. Last week we had a very beautiful and reverent ceremony and we pray for a similar celebration this Sunday. This is one of the most joyous celebrations during the year in any parish, and we are blessed that so many of our parents are so supportive of the children in their preparations. We thank you most sincerely for your participation. We also want to extend a very special welcome to all the visitors to our church today. We hope it is a day you will long remember and cherish. And we offer a very special word of thanks to all the Catechists, and to Roxane, who have given so generously of their time and talents in preparing the children for this wonderful day.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations:

And speaking of celebrations – we have a very special one here next Saturday at 12 noon. Three members of St. Joseph's Province of the Passionists will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their ordinations. Unfortunately, for health reasons, Fr. Anthony Hale C.P. will not be with us, but we are very happy to welcome the other two Jubilarians – Fr. John McCormack C.P. and Bishop William Kenney C.P.

Fr. John McCormack was born in Lancashire in November 1940. He entered the Passionists in 1963 and was ordained with William Kenney and Fr. Anthony Hale C.P. After a period as vice-novice master John moved to Sweden in 1971. He worked in a parish with several out-stations; and because there were no Catholic schools, he spent much of his time teaching the faith to young people. In his later years he worked as prison chaplain, ultimately with responsibility for all the prisons in Sweden.

Bishop William Kenney CP, was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in May 1946, and entered the Passionists in 1963. He was ordained to the priesthood in June 1969 and immediately went to work on the Passionist mission in Sweden. He worked as a parish priest and academic sociologist, before pursuing doctoral studies at the London School of Economics from 1977 to 1979. He was a General Consultor of the Passionist Congregation, resident in Rome, from 1982 to 1984. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Stockholm in August 1987. He is currently an auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, with responsibility for the southern part of the diocese including Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

The Mass will be concelebrated at 12 noon, and you will be very welcome to join with us in this very special celebration.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,870. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

Next Sunday is the Feast of SS. Peter & Paul when we will have the annual Peter's Pence collection for Papal charities.

100 Club:

The June 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.

Volunteering Opportunity in Lourdes:

Could you be a Lourdes helper? The Lourdes pilgrimage team are looking to recruit volunteers to lend medical and practical support for the pilgrimage from 20th to 26th July 2019. If interested, please contact the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office at Vaughan House on 0207 798 9173 or email westminsterfrai@gmail.com or lourdes@rcdow.org.uk.

Open Evening – St Michael's, Finchley:

The Open Evening for Admissions 2020 to St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, will be held on Thursday 27th June 2019. There are two sessions on the 27th June; 3:30pm until 5:00pm and 7:00pm until 9:00pm. The Headteacher will address prospective parents at 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 9:00pm.

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.