



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084

Fr. Pat ([pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@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)

## 23rd September 2018 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Let the Little Children ....

When I joined the Passionists away back in the last millennium, it never crossed my mind that one day I would end up working in London. At that stage I had never even heard of Highgate, not to mention Highbury! But by a few strange twists of fortune, this is where I am. And let me rush in to say that I consider myself very fortunate to have been asked to come and serve St. Joseph's Parish. (As I read over that last sentence, even to me who wrote it, it sounds a little like the beginning of a farewell speech. Don't get your hopes up yet!) Most of my family and friends in Ireland had never heard of it either, and so still I get lots of questions as to what Highgate is like as a parish. And indeed even here in England – and especially if I'm meeting with priests from other areas – I frequently get asked the same question. And I can put my hand over my heart and tell you that my answer is always along the same lines – we're very fortunate with the Parish we have – we're blessed to have so many young families, with so many people willing to be involved in so many areas of parish life.

And our children are special! Because of the close link between the church and the school, we frequently have groups of the children here at mass – either as class groups, or sometimes the whole school. And the reaction of the adults present is always the same – how wonderfully well behaved the children always are. And those involved with our first communion programs and junior liturgies over the years will tell you the same – how lovely they are to work with. As a Parish we can feel fairly comfortable reading that final passage from today's Gospel – 'He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms around him, and said to them, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."'

But that's not to say that everything is perfect! It's quite a while since I've raised this subject, but many people have been pressing me to say/do something. And I fully understand, and share, their concerns. I am referring to the level of noise that sometimes emanates from the Lady Chapel, especially during the Family Mass on Sundays. I emphasise, we are genuinely happy to welcome all children, no matter what age. The sooner they learn about God, and how they are expected to behave in God's house, the better. But they are only children, and this sort of thing doesn't come instinctively to them – they need guidance, and that is best coming from their own parents. I fully appreciate that getting them ready in time on a Sunday morning to come to church is not the easiest of tasks, and you may be arriving with your nerves fairly frayed. But can I please ask that you go just that little step further, and help them appreciate the specialness of what is happening, and why you have taken so much trouble to bring them there. Sometimes appropriate books, or soft toys can be helpful. (The odd cry or word here and there is no problem, but when their behaviour gets to the point where it becomes a major distraction for others, then it is often helpful to bring them to the porch for a while – you can still hear the mass, and their crying or whatever is somewhat muffled.) In no circumstances should they be permitted to run around – apart from anything else the church is not a safe environment for them to do so. Please don't think that people are judging you negatively – once we feel you are making a reasonable effort we are all on your side. The bottom line is – in Jesus' name, they are always welcome.

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**We remember those who have died recently** – Kathleen Crowe (funeral 1.00pm Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September), Ann Coughlan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Desley Deike, Gill Comyn, Jacqueline Deeley, Antoniette Gerard Coppell.

### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation:**

Application Forms for our First Communion and Confirmation programs are available in the porch of the church. These programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. Children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example. Completed forms for the First Communion program must be returned by **30th September**, at the latest. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time. The first session will be **7th October** for Group A, and **14th October** for Group B - groups will be allocated and details sent to parents/carers by **2nd October**.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,465. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks again for your generous support of our parish.

### **Inclusive Mass at St Mellitus:**

St Mellitus Church invites you to their Inclusive Mass at 10:30 am on 7th October. Inclusive Mass is an opportunity for us to extend a special welcome to those with learning disabilities and their friends and families to Sunday Mass. Mass can be an intimidating and difficult experience for some so Inclusive Masses are designed to be as friendly and accessible as possible. All are welcome and there will be interactive music and performance for those who wish to join in and refreshments afterwards. Those who would like to get involved can meet at 9:30 am in the hall. The address is St Mellitus, Tollington Park, London, N4 3AG. For more information contact Anna Gavurin, [annagavurin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annagavurin@rcdow.org.uk), 07525812508.

### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:**

The RCIA course – for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic community – will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com). Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

### **100 Club:**

The September draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Members are reminded to have their subscriptions in in good time. Thanks again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Parish Bazaar – November 24th:**

We don't seem to be properly back into a new year as yet, and already we are beginning the countdown to our Christmas Bazaar – it's only 11 weeks away! It might appear strange to be announcing it this early, but as this is the only regular fund-raising event we have each year, and also one of our principle social events, it is important that people support it as best they can. You will readily appreciate how disheartening it can be for the volunteers who give so generously of their time if on the actual day there is a disappointing attendance. Thank God that hasn't been the case in recent years. Attendance has been increasing year on year, and feedback has been very positive. But we still have people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So **please put the date in your diary**, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at [felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com)

### **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 Tuesday 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](mailto:stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com) if you would be interested in volunteering.