



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 (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)

24th March 2019 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Invitation to Become

The first reading for today is what is known as “The Call of Moses”. There are many ‘call stories’ in Hebrew Scripture and they seem to follow a typical format. Most of the time God will issue a call to someone and then that person will begin to name all the reasons they are not the one for the job. Often times these people in Scripture who have experienced a call from God are judged by us because of their reluctance to acquiesce to God’s call. Yet, a call from God is no small thing. I think it makes all the sense in the world that those called by God would hesitate and feel uncertain about the task God gives them to do. Moses begins by asking the question, “Who am I to do this task?” God’s response is not to prove to Moses why he is capable of the job, but rather to show him that he won’t be alone in the task. God assures Moses that He will be near. Then Moses asks a question that makes a lot of sense. He asks, “Ok then, who are you?” Moses wants to know why the people will trust him if he tells them that Yahweh sent him. This is where we get that great line where God says, “I am that I am.”

Growing up I always loved this part of the story because God’s assurance in who God is always instilled confidence in me. As I studied the passage later in life I learned that translating this particular line from the Hebrew is actually a pretty difficult task. In the Hebrew the being verb in this context is in the imperfect form. What that means is that the verb connotes continual action. In English we do not have an adequate way to translate our being verb in that form. A way we might do it is to translate that line to say “I will be that I will be” or “I am becoming that I am becoming.”

I love that God names or defines or describes God’s self as one in a perpetual state of becoming. There is the sense that God isn’t done and that God will never be done. We could be bothered by this idea - that God is still growing and changing and developing. However, I think that we struggle with that idea because we believe that changing or growing or developing means that previous versions of ourselves were less than ourselves now. We live with this model that change means something no longer works and that’s a bad thing. I wonder, though, if God is in this perpetual state of becoming, is it then possible that change and growth and development are simply the nature of things and not something that we do because of need or because we lack something; or better yet that the need to change because something is lacking is not a bad thing?

Maybe God is in this constant state of becoming because the nature of God is to be in relationship with us. Relationships are these vibrant, growing, changing things in our lives. As people change and as we change the nature of our relationships change. So, if God is in relationship with us then it would make sense that God is always becoming, as our relationship to God is becoming.

The other thing that I like about this description for God is that it offers us an assurance that God is never done. God is always at work with us and for us and through us. God is always responding to the world and all of its goodness and all of its brokenness. Along the way God invites us to participate in this perpetual becoming. God wants us to do the things to which God is calling us with the confidence and assurance of knowing that the One who is still becoming is also helping us to become ourselves. And that is what Lent is all about.

Fr. George C.P.

-----00000OOO00000-----

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - Neave McDermott; we remember those who have died recently – Nora Flanagan (funeral 10.15am Tuesday 26th March), Bridgette McDwyer, Seamus Galvin; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Beryl Macauley, Joan Saunders, Angela Borzoni, Patrick Hogan, Patrick Moyihan, Ralph Bates, Mary Feeley.

Fr. Christopher's 100th Birthday:

Fr. Christopher will be having a special celebration next Sunday to mark his 100th Birthday (actual birthday on Tuesday). The 12 o'clock mass will be led by Fr. John Kearns, Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, with Fr. Malachy – whom many of you will remember as a member of this community – preaching. We will also be joined by members of Fr. Chris's family, and Passionist colleagues. All are welcome to attend the mass. The later celebration in the Hall is by invitation only.

Mothering Sunday:

Mothering Sunday is also next Sunday, 31st March and once again we would like to celebrate it, as we did most successfully last year, as a Parish community. You will find in the porch an invitation to attend either of two sessions – after the 10, and after the 12 masses, in the Red Room, and, weather permitting, spilling out to the lawn. It is open to all – you don't have to be a mother yourself – if you ever had a mother you qualify!

Youth Group:

The Youth Group for ages 13-17 years old will reconvene on Friday 5th April. It would be great to see some new faces so please do join us even if you have not been involved before! It will run 7pm till 9pm and please use the entrance on Highgate Hill when you arrive. Further details can be obtained by contacting Mirek on mirek17@hotmail.com

Planned Giving Boxes:

We will shortly be into a new tax year, when the planned-giving boxes for 2019-2020 come into operation. We invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes at the back of the church after any of the masses over the next couple of week-ends. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please let the people distributing the boxes know, and they will assign you a box number. If you prefer to donate by standing order, forms can be obtained at the back of the church.

Do You Gift-Aid?

The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by Gift-Aiding it – if you are a tax-payer. The Parish learns nothing about your private financial affairs. The average weekly collection, between plate and standing orders, is approximately £2200 a week. If only half of that was Gift-Aided, it would mean an extra £275 a week, or £14,300 a year, to Parish funds. We are genuinely grateful to those who have been Gift-Aiding. If you haven't been doing so already, and are in a position to Gift-Aid, perhaps you might think of doing so now. Forms will be available at the back of the church while the planned giving boxes are being distributed, and at any other time from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

This annual event will be taking place this year in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you qualify, and would like to attend, please give to Fr. Pat the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). The actual invitation will eventually come directly from the Cardinal's office.

Christian Stewardship and Lenten Project:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,311. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks also for your magnificent response to our Lenten Project in aid of Fr. Rick's work in Haiti - £892 in total was donated last week, bringing the total to date to just over £2000. We are very grateful for your outstanding generosity.

100 Club:

The March 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, and especially to everyone who has responded to our recent membership appeal.

Stations of the Cross:

During the season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross immediately after the 6.30 pm. Mass each Friday. This is a particularly appropriate form of prayer during Lent, especially in a Passionist church, as it encourages meditation on the profound mystery on the depth of the Lord's love for us as expressed in His passion, death and resurrection. Of course, if the set time is not suitable for you, you can also do this particular form of prayer at any time on your own or with some friends.

Clocks Forward:

British Summer Time starts next weekend. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour next Saturday.