



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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**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 June 2018 – Nativity of St. John the Baptist STABLE RELATIONS?

During the week we had a funeral here, where they had a horse-drawn carriage instead of the usual hearse. Seeing the two magnificent steeds nuzzling together outside the church reminded me of a conversation I heard not long before I came to Highgate. It went something like this -

*"A great turn-out today – looks to be a lot more than last year!"*

*"Yeh, you usually find that in the year of an election – they want to get a last look at the outgoing guy, what-do-you-call-him - Chirac!"*

*"Great the way they keep all the people behind barriers. If you ask me, that's the way they should always be kept!"*

*"And isn't it wonderful to see the street without any cars on it? That's how it used to be in the good old days, so I'm told. None of those exhaust fumes, and noisy engines, and tooting horns – just the majestic sound of hooves on cobblestones!"*

*"It would indeed be the perfect day, if only I could get the boss off my back!"*

*"Giving you trouble, is he? My own is a decent enough kind of guy."*

*"You know how it is – they get their hands on the reins and think they're God. I'm forever being taken for a ride! And the complaints if I should step out of line!"*

*"I know, I know! I had an e-neighl (get it?) from my brother in Toulouse yesterday, and he was saying just the same thing!"*

*"If only the rest of the world had as much horse-sense as you and I!"*

Such was the conversation beside me one day on the Champs Elysées as I stood waiting for some ceremony at the Arc. I won't claim I heard it all – there was too much back-ground noise for that, and they were only whispering. But using my best lip-reading skills, I think I got the general drift fairly accurately. Don't be put off by the fact that these were two horses – if Mr. Ed could do it why shouldn't they?

OK, I let my imagination run away a little bit – but the ceremonies were too far away and these two horses were part of Chirac's escort who happened to stop right beside where I was standing. I promise, their heads were practically touching, and their lips were going good-o. They really did look like they were talking! It seemed as pleasant a way as any to pass the time in imagining what they were saying.

Fortunately we don't have to use any imagination in wondering what Jesus says to us. Throughout His time here on earth His message was constant, and crystal clear – "Love one another as I have loved you"; "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and **make our home with him!**" Yes, He literally wants to **live** in us!

Last Sunday we had the celebration of First Communion for our first group of children – the second will be celebrating today. Young people can accept with a child-like faith (which, incidentally we're all invited to have) that Christ comes to them, and into them, in Holy Communion. With our more adult outlook we can relatively easily accept that He provides Himself as food for our souls – but **living** in us? – That we find more difficult. The unfortunate thing is that at times it would seem that the world would be more prepared to believe that horses could talk than to believe that our God could make His home with us!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** – Jennifer Roberts, Oliver Columb; **we remember those who have died recently** – Cassie Frampton, Lisa McCarthy, Eugene McManus, Michael Forkan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Patricia Forsey, Mary Deeley, Peter Heavey, Jose Manrique, P.J. Hogan.

**SS Peter & Paul – Holyday of Obligation:**

Friday this week is the Feast of SS. Peter & Paul and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be: 6.30pm Vigil on Thursday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Friday.

The annual Peter's Pence collection for Papal charities will be taken up after all Masses next weekend.

**100 Club:**

The June draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Members are reminded to pay in their subscriptions in good time. Thanks for your support of the parish in this way.

**Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 20th June:**

Thanks very much to Roni and her helpers for the wonderful tea social last Wednesday afternoon. It was good to see so many people enjoying a relaxed outing with fellow parishioners. Thanks too, to all who contributed goodies for the occasion. A special treat this time was to have a group of children from St. Joseph's school, who did some singing, and then helped with the serving. As I mentioned before, we hope to be able to have these gatherings each month, on the third Wednesday – so our next social is scheduled for the **18<sup>th</sup> of July**. Make sure you have that date in your diary!

**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 Roxane and all the Catechists who have given so generously of their time and talents in preparing the children for this wonderful day.

**Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,599. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity.

**World Youth Day 2019:**

The next World Youth Day takes place in Panama, January 2019. The diocesan Youth Ministry team will be taking a group of young adults to Panama, from ages 18-35. If there are any young people in the parish who would be interested in joining the pilgrimage, they are invited to contact [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). Bursaries of up to 50% of the cost are available. Spaces are limited. Hence, interested youth are requested to contact Youth Ministry as soon as possible.

**Mary's Meals Clothes Collection:**

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

**Children's Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> 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 holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

**Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress: 7-9 September:**

Apologies to anyone who experienced difficulties booking tickets through the Bishops' Conference online portal at <http://unbouncepages.com/adoremus2018/> The issues have now been resolved and bookings can be made until Tuesday, 31 July – this is an absolute deadline. The Friday symposium is fully booked. You can add your name to a waiting list at [adoremus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adoremus@rcdow.org.uk) but there is no guarantee of further tickets. There are tickets remaining for the main event on the Saturday, when the internationally-known Bishop Robert Barron will give two keynote addresses and Cardinal Nichols will give a reflection and lead us in Exposition and Benediction. There is a fee of £40 per delegate for the Saturday. There is no fee for the Sunday, but please still submit a booking form online for a place at one of the two Solemn Masses at the Metropolitan Cathedral.