



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE
Tel. 020 7272 2320

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)

24th November 2019 – Feast of Christ the King

Farewell, Fr. Pat

As we give thanks for Fr Pat's ministry over the last 11 years or so, I would just like to highlight a few things that stand out for me. When visiting the sick in the homes and others in our nursing homes I came to realise how much many people enjoyed receiving and reading Fr Pat's front page on our parish newsletter. It was a simple, but such a nice way these people could still feel connected to the parish and its life. In a very dedicated way, he has overseen the repair of our beloved church. From when I first arrived with water leaking in so many sections of the church, we saw, over time, the roof repaired, the nave and side chapel repainted, the seating re-varnished, the entrance area renovated and repainted and our sound system updated. The outdoor Calvary shrine has been renewed. Our primary school has a great reputation which is partly due to Fr Pat's dedication to ministry to our children and staff there. Over all these Years Fr Pat has shown dedication, devotion and constancy in his ministry to us all. Thanks very much.

Fr Tiernan CP



Fr Pat Fitzgerald arrived at St Joseph's Parish 11 years ago, announcing himself through the Bulletin as a shy man, more comfortable with the written word than the spoken. His facility in writing is undeniable as anyone who has sneaked a peek at his weekly writings during Mass or taken it home for a better read could testify: wit, reminiscences about his childhood in Ireland and wry observations on life in London have been vehicles for transmitting wisdom from the Gospels in a form that makes them accessible to parishioners of any age. His acute skills of observation and a knack of being in a place where he is most needed made him one of the earliest writers to spot the phenomenon of Moped-Assisted theft, when not long after joining our Parish he witnessed one mount the pavement at the bus stop across from the church and a young man snatch a phone from an unwitting young woman waiting for the bus. He was there to offer solace and to warn the whole Parish in the next week's bulletin.

As to the spoken word, well any parishioner who has heard Fr Pat preach, gone to him in confusion or distress will beg to disagree that there are any issues there while the children of our Parish at Mass or down at the school have found a true friend and a wise counsellor. Whether making First Confession a sacred yet not intimidating occasion, excusing the gaps in our cast for the Living Crib with a joke- a number of times, owing to Austerity, we have only been able to afford the one Wise Man, apparently- or emphasising that our weekly Masses are true celebrations, Fr Pat has ensured the Catholic Faith is shared in an atmosphere of warmth and true grace.

His legacy to the Parish is all around us as we see the glossy pews and the beautifully repainted walls with the Crown of Thorns etched in gold. Without his energy and efficiency, Growing in Faith would never have garnered enough funds to maintain this church for the whole community and we would still have buckets everywhere when the heavens opened.

So, we say thank you for the years of hard work, guidance and inspirational preaching and wish you not goodbye but "au revoir" as you head off to Paris - we will hope and expect to see you coming back to visit us regularly.

Cheryl Juckes

Fr Pat has been such a support to St Joseph's School over the past eleven years and will be greatly missed by staff, governors and of course all our pupils. Whether it is coming down at 8am to lead a staff Mass, celebrating Liturgy of the Word sessions, class Masses and prayer services, attending assemblies or visiting each class to deliver a session on that week's RE topic, it is always such a pleasure to see Fr Pat arrive with a smiling face and a few of his witty comments to brighten up our day. Fr Pat has also been very generous to the school and provided the school with a lasting memento in the beautiful tabernacle for our school chapel. Obviously at certain times during the liturgical year Fr Pat would be down to provide an opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or hearing approximately 180 confessions in a day: something we are sure that would undoubtedly drain a much younger person, but not Fr Pat! But there was another side to Fr Pat too, and we thank him for all the countless theatre shows he accompanied children to see and most of all for agreeing to have his arm twisted each year to escort the children on their week-long residential trip to the Isle of Wight. The whole school community will genuinely miss Fr Pat when he moves on from St Joseph's so we would like to take this opportunity to say 'Merci Beaucoup' and 'Dieu le bénisse' and wish Fr Pat 'Bon Voyage' and 'À bientôt'.

St. Joseph's School

**Everyone is welcome to join us in the Monastery after 12 o'clock Mass on Sunday
for a shared lunch to say farewell to Fr. Pat**

We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – Jenny Roberts, Jane Thomas; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Oliver Columb; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Aidan Baker CP, Brendan Nolan, Kathleen (Kathy) O'Brien, Gladys Ryan Barbara Mayers, Joe McNulty, Anthony McNulty, Doreen Galvin, Andreas Panayiotou, Charles & Marie Carson;

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,450. 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.

Thank you to everybody who supported the Christmas Bazaar last weekend, which raised over £3,800.

Coffee Morning:

Our next monthly coffee morning immediately after the 10.00am mass next Sunday, 1st December, in the Red Room. Why not come along and enjoy a few moments with your fellow-parishioners?

100 Club:

The November 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.

International Christmas Concert:

On Saturday 14th December 2019, at 8.30pm, we will have an International Christmas Carols concert, with songs from all over the world, including Navidad Nuestra, written by the Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez, a suite of dances and songs typical of the Argentinian culture, about Nativity. The concert will be played by "St Joseph's Christmas Singers" and accompanied by "St Joseph's Players", including our cantor Marianne and our organist Alberto. Tickets will be available on pre-sale for £8, and on the door for £10, or online at: <http://navidadnuestrahighgate.eventbrite.com>. For information, please contact Marianne or Alberto.

Christmas Dates:

Other Christmas dates for your diaries: the Living Crib will be on Sunday 8th December at 3.00pm, and our 'Highgate Christmas' evening of Readings and Carols will be on Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm.

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2020 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.

November Dead List:

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are available in the porch. Mass is being offered each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

Bulletin Arrangements:

The weekly Bulletin is now being produced on Friday. Any input will need to be received by the parish office (joseph.highgate@gmail.com) by Thursday evening please.