



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfc44@yahoo.com) Fr. George (gaskoloth@hotmail.com)

Masses: Sunday: (7pm Saturday) 8am, 10am, 12noon, 1.30 (Polish), 7pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Holydays: 6.30pm vigil, 9.30am, 11am, 6.30pm

Saturday 10-10.30am, 6.30 -6.45pm

Weekdays: 9.30am, 6.30pm. **Saturday:** 9.30am, 7pm. **Bank Holiday:** 9.30am

Weekdays: immediately after Mass (on request)

25th November 2018 – Feast of Christ the King

A Practical Kingdom

Every so often I ask myself that silly question – where does the time go. I know I'm not on my own in that regard, but somehow lately – and please don't say it's just old age, even if it's true – it seems to have accelerated like a plane down the runway for take-off. Except that I'm not taking off for anywhere, at least until after Christmas. Admittedly there have been a lot of things going on. Last week-end we had our latest pre-marriage course, which once again seems to have been enjoyed and appreciated by all the young lovers taking part. In fact I want to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth, and George and Isabel, for their dedication to this particular form of ministry over a long number of years – since well before I came here. Maybe now is also a good time to invite any couples or individuals who might be interested in helping out – we run two full-day courses in a year – to let me know.

Moving on, on Wednesday we had our senior's afternoon tea. There was a nice little turn-out, but we could cater for more. We can readily understand if people may have difficulty travelling, and that's why we would encourage them to let us know, and we can almost certainly organise transport for them. Even if you don't wish to come yourself, perhaps you may know of someone who would benefit from a little time away from home, and amongst friends.

And today we had the Parish Christmas Bazaar– see over for a very brief acknowledgement. And these were only the very public events this week. In between we had some problems with the church heating – sorted; some ongoing issues with the roof over the sacristy area – maybe sorted; and ongoing planning for the next stage of work in the church, which will consist in removing the false ceiling (which has partially fallen down anyway), building in some appropriate furniture and notice-boards, and painting the whole area to match the much brighter body of the church. At the same time we will be getting the seating in the church repaired, refurbished, and fixed in position – we've had more than enough of our wandering pews! The work is scheduled to begin on January 7th, and shouldn't cause any major interference to our normal services. The final bill – vat included – for all of that should come to just short of £110,000.

Do I hear an appeal for money coming on, I can hear some of you ask. Don't worry. Thanks to your generosity over the last number of years, and the grants and vat-back that we've been able to secure, our finances can cope at present. (Please don't take that to mean that we would be so bad-mannered as to refuse any donations you might like to voluntarily make!) In fact we're now just in to our final year of the Growing in Faith campaign, and I'm happy to be able to report that we're still on target to achieve most of our pledged amount, which was just over £200,000 – most of which was gift-aid-able, making for approximately £245,000. To date we have received almost £155,000, plus almost £27,000 gift-aid refund (with another claim in the offing). So we still have funds in hand towards the cost of the eventual refurbishment of the sanctuary area. So thanks to all involved for taking that worry away.

Our Feast today is that of Christ the King. His kingship is one of love and peace, a kingdom of service to one another. And that love, peace and service must be practical. On all counts I think we have much to celebrate on this Feast. It's not too fanciful to say his Kingdom is flourishing here in Highgate. May it continue to grow in a spirit of joy and togetherness.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, particularly – Michael Brereton; we remember those who have died recently – John Fitzgerald; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Fr. Aidan Baker CP, Brendan Nolan, Kathy O'Brien, Tom Flynn, Annie Flynn, William Pender, Hilda Pender, Douglas Pender, Barbara Mayers, Martin Kerrins, Susan Kerrins, Andreas Panayioutou, Charlie & Marie Carson.

Christmas Bazaar:

Well, that's that for another year! Hard to believe that the Christmas Bazaar has already come and gone! Many people took the opportunity to venture out and enjoy the company of other parishioners, have a bite to eat, hunt for some bargain buys, have a go at winning some bottles of central heating, enjoy the entertainment and all the while contributing to the funds of the Parish. It was wonderful to see so many people turn up, and while fund-raising is an important part of the day, the social event is probably even more valuable. There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout, and people, of all ages, seemed to be enjoying themselves. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who put so much hard work into making it possible for the day to happen; the many who so generously gave of their time on the day itself to staff the various stalls; the many who stayed behind to make sure everything was tidied up and put away; the many who turned up on the day itself helping to create such a lively and happy atmosphere. Special thanks to Cheryl and Roxane who put so much work into organising the event.

Coffee Morning:

Our next monthly Coffee Morning will be held next Sunday, 2nd December, immediately after 10.00am Mass, in the Red Room. You're invited to take a little time to meet and greet your fellow parishioners. All welcome, young and old.

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.

Diocesan Youth Mass:

On Saturday 8th December (starting at 3pm) at St. Dominic's Priory (Southampton Rd, Belsize Park, London NW5 4LB), Westminster Youth Ministry will be celebrating its annual diocesan Youth Mass. The principle celebrant will be Bishop John Wilson. Young people from all parishes are welcome to this special celebration. The music for the Mass will be provided by Catholic artist Edwin Fawcett and the young Music Ministry scholars who spent a year preparing for this day. If you are a young Catholic who is interesting in being more involved in your faith, this is a good opportunity to meet informally with other young people in the same situation. For more information about the Youth Mass, as well as to apply for next year's free music scholarship, visit dowym.com

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,380. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Keeping Our Church Clean:

Our next cleaning day will be at 10am this Tuesday 27th November to get the church looking good for our Advent and Christmas events (we hope to finish by 1pm – if we have enough volunteers that should be no problem). Everyone welcome, and – just a little bribe - suitably fortifying refreshments will be served! Those who can be available on the day can either email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com or call 020 7263 6831 or just turn up and join the fun.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery:

If your child is 3 years old or will be turning 3 in the Autumn /Spring Term, apply now for the school nursery. The school offers FREE part-time (8:40am -1:00pm) and FREE full time (8:40-3:15) nursery places for eligible children. Our fees for non-eligible children are £85 per week for half day sessions. Wrap around care is also offered subject to availability of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£10) until 6pm. Applications are available on the website or contact office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2019 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.

Diary Updates - Christmas Events:

We have our other usual Christmas events approaching very rapidly, so make sure you note them in your diary. The **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 9th December at 3.00pm, - any stray angels, shepherds or wise men (or even wise women!) always welcome! And our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Thursday 20th December at 7.30pm. As an extra treat this year we are hosting a Christmas recital by the well-known ensemble **Voxcetera** on Friday 7th December. (This is an admission by ticket event – please see the flyers in the porch.)