



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

26th May 2019 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Journeying the Secure Way

Believe me when I say I don't really believe in ghosts. I do believe in the spirit world, and believe that after we die our spirit lives on – hopefully in heaven. But when it comes to spirits or ghosts, or whatever one wants to call them, wandering around our everyday world and becoming involved in people's lives, I am a total non-believer. I might of course be entirely in the wrong, and I know there are a lot of people, especially in my home country, who are absolutely convinced of the presence of banshees, and fairy forts, and all sorts of shenanigans from the spirit world – and such beliefs are not confined to Ireland!

So you can imagine my confusion during the week, as I was driving along on my way to make another one of those lodgements to the Post Office. (Thanks, by the way, to all those who, since my last mention of the subject, have given in bundles of small coin bags. They are really appreciated, as we use 60 to 70 of them every week – so any spare ones you have around will be very welcome until we get this whole banking fiasco properly sorted.) Where was I? Oh yeh, I was driving to a more distant Post Office – as the one on Junction Road tends to be very busy, and lodging takes quite a while as they weigh each individual bag of coins. I am very compliant when it comes to wearing my seat belt when I'm driving – no matter how short a journey. And even if I weren't, the beeping sound that the car makes when the seatbelt is not being worn is annoying enough to make me wear it just to get peace.

So imagine my surprise when I'm driving along, happily listening to some nice music on the radio, and the beeping starts. Not constant – just two or three beeps, then stop for a while, then two or three more beeps, etc. I check out that my seatbelt is properly fastened – which it seems to be. By this time I'm going along a quieter part of the road, so I take the opportunity to look more closely at the red light on the car's instrument panel. It tells me that it's the passenger's seat-belt which isn't fastened. But there is no passenger, at least as far as I can see! And I don't believe in ghosts – and even if I did, a white sheet wouldn't weigh enough, surely, to set off the alarm?

And then I spot it. Not the ghost, but the bagful of coins that I had put on the seat beside me. For convenience I often put things on the seat beside me, but this was the first time that anything had set off the seat-belt warning. No ghosts. No spirits. So I could continue on my way. But it's interesting, isn't it, the amount of systems we have nowadays to help us safely on our way? Seat-belt warnings. Reversing warnings. Traffic warnings all over the place. All so that we can get safely from A to B.

Jesus wants to be our guide on a far more important journey – through this life to eternal life. But He prefers not to do it by a system of warnings. Rather, He wants to encourage us to be aware that the Holy Spirit is there to guide us on our way; helping us to see the opportunities the live in a more loving way; encouraging us to feed Him when He's hungry, to visit Him when He's sick. In our gospel reading today He invites us to accept His gift of Peace – “my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be trouble or afraid”. He wants to hold us securely in His divine embrace – much more secure than any safety belt!

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We pray for those who have died recently –Eamon Kiely; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr.Peter Paul O'Connor CP, Maurice Kennedy, Michael Whelton, Michael Traynor, Elizabeth Wright, Maureen Jones, Jimmy Doherty, Cornelius Antrobus, May Beeston.

Bank Holiday:

Monday this week is a bank holiday so there will only be one Mass, at 9.30am.

Ascension Day:

Thursday this week is the Feast of Ascension and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at the usual Holyday times: 6.30pm Vigil on Wednesday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Thursday. (If you're wondering – yes, Ascension Day had been moved to the following Sunday, but for the last couple of years it has been brought back to being celebrated on Thursday.)

Aid To The Church In Need:

As you will remember, there was an appeal at all Masses last weekend on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need which helps persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world through prayer, information and action. Clearly their speaker, John Ravi, got his message home, as you contributed the outstanding sum of £1,713, and 43 Euros. If you wish to get more actively involved in Aid to the Church in Need, please contact John on 07727442510, or email john.ravi@acnuk.org or go to www.acnuk.org.

Confirmations:

This week-end, at the 7 o'clock mass on Saturday, we are very happy to welcome in our midst Bishop Nicholas Hudson, who will be officiating at the Confirmation ceremony of 24 of our young people. Nowadays our young people must make a personal choice to seek to be confirmed and go through a lengthy process of preparation. To make those sorts of choices is not easy nowadays. So I really want to first of all congratulate them on their special day, but also to thank them for coming forward and publicly committing to their faith. They are the church's hope for the future. We look forward to them becoming active members of our Parish community and being a source of inspiration to us all, but particularly our younger people. A very special word of thanks to Cheryl and to her team of helpers who have prepared them for this wonderful day.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch on Sunday, 9th June, at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, (summer will be here by then!) spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is our third year to celebrate Pentecost in this way. Our celebration is designed to encourage people to build up a real sense of community in our Parish, by getting to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. If you were one of the lucky ones who managed to be here for previous celebrations you will remember what a wonderful success they were, and what an amazing variety of food was contributed. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country of origin, and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,289. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support your Parish.

100 Club:

The May 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.

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, 2nd June, 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.

Highgate Festival Ceili:

St Joseph's Parish Centre will be hosting a Ceili on Friday June 14th, 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm as part of the Highgate Festival. Live band, great caller who knows how to lead beginners as well as experts, home made food and we're also hoping for an Irish Dancing display. Bring your dancing shoes or come along to listen and for the Craic! All ages welcome. £7.50 early bird tickets/concessions Tickets £10 on the night- any money raised will go towards the heating system to the Parish Centre. For tickets please contact Cheryl - felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.