



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

27th January 2019 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Cleaning up our Act

I was brought up in a world of DIY – maybe I should spell that out – Do-It-Yourself. For the benefit of those who are not used to the phrase in its historic meaning, it *wasn't* a cheeky reply to someone who asked you for help. Rather it meant that if the tap was dripping, you went to the nearest hardware shop – we didn't have 'stores' in my day – and bought some washers, got out the wrenches, and fixed it yourself. And if there was so much stuff up in Nellie's room behind the wallpaper that it was now falling off, there was no way most people could afford to get in the painter and decorator; we just went to the same hardware shop, got some rolls of paper and some packets of paste, and sloshed away until even mother was happy with the finished job. It was a very deprived family that didn't have its own handyman or two; or a very wealthy household that could afford to hire one. In the days before "health and safety" – when we were all healthy and safe – plumbing, electrics, decorating, carpentry held no fears.

The above line of thinking came to mind as I watched all the work that has been going on in the church recently. Don't worry, the thought didn't cross my mind to get out the sandpaper or the paint brushes – my days for those kinds of major undertakings are long gone. 'Though I will admit to a little tinge of regret when I see the wonderful array of electric and other tools that are available even in the supermarkets nowadays, and wish they had been so readily available or affordable when I was in my prime. Sorry, got distracted there – where was I. Oh, yes, the work in the church. Many people have very favourably remarked on the great difference it has already made to see how bright the pews have come up once the dirt of the years has been removed. The next phase, however, is the tricky bit. They can't be left as they are, or they would simply return to their previous state very quickly. So you may notice that a couple of seats towards the back of the church have been stained with two different colour stains, and also finished in two different finishes – a matt and a gloss. The 'experts' will be coming in the next couple of days to advise, but in the meantime I would genuinely appreciate your input, as you will be the people using it week in week out, when the experts have long disappeared. I will be outside the church as usual after all the masses, so have a word either with me or any of the other priests who may happen to be there; or send me an email. (Forget facebook, twitter, or whatever!)

Moving on to today's gospel, and in the light of the above, I couldn't help but ask myself was Jesus in a sense doing the same kind of thing. He has returned to the town where he grew up, and gone to the synagogue there, and taken on the role of preacher and teacher. Was he, maybe, sampling how his message would go down, once he started travelling around the country with it? And it turned out to be a good sample poll. While he worked miracles and spoke encouraging words about God's mercy and how he looked after his chosen people, and so on, they were happy to admire and applaud him. But once he got into anything personally critical or challenging, as we will see next week, they couldn't wait to throw him out of town. Faith isn't painting and decorating – having a pretty surface. It's about what lies beneath, in our hearts. We must do-it-ourselves, but Jesus is always there to help.

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We remember those who have died recently – Dorothy Breen (funeral 12.30pm Friday 1st February), Noel O'Donoghue, James Lynch; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Colum Devine CP, Clare Fruin, Dudley Fox, Robert Robson, Edmund Kolibabka (Dr Kali Collie), Denis McGarry, Paddy Healy, John Masterson, Leo Baker, Margaret Maloney, Madeline Butler.

Coffee Morning:

Our next coffee morning will be taking place in the Red Room next Sunday, February 3rd.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,302. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

100 Club:

The January Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 98 and the winners were: £400 Neil Golding (31), £100 Paula Waldron (162). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The February draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 24th February. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way. 2018 Year-end Report: During 2018 the 100 Club received £12,320 in monthly contributions and paid out £6,600 in prizes, raising £5,720 towards the church refurbishment and other works.

Are You Slovenian?

This year the World Day of Prayer, which is an international inter-denominational event – organised by women, but open to all - will be held on the morning March 1st and the service will be written by the women of Slovenia. We are looking for any parishioner from that country who would like to be involved? Contact Jottraffordowen@blueyonderco.uk

Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019:

Proclaim Spring Gatherings are for laity and clergy from Parishes, Schools, Youth and chaplaincies and all who are involved or interested in local evangelisation. The events are free, with coffee & tea etc. provided. Please bring your own lunch. With Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Saturday 9th February, 9.30am – 3.00pm, 4 Lady Margaret Road, Kentish Town NW5 2XT OR Saturday 23rd February, 9.30am – 3.00pm 2 Lukin Street E1 0AA. To register e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk Telephone contact is 0207 798 9152

Oh Crumbs!

Did you know that 24 million slices of bread are wasted on average every day in the UK? To help you cut back on any bread waste at home, Keep Britain Tidy are hosting a **FREE** cookery workshop on Wednesday 13th February, 5:00pm at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School! Come along to the workshop to see a demonstration by our professional chefs of how to make bread and butter pudding, before getting the chance to make and eat a delicious panzanella salad for yourself! The workshop is open to all, so be sure to spread the word! Bring along some Tupperware too as you'll likely be able to take some tasty food away with you. Spaces are limited. Book your place now! <https://bit.ly/2SVQ62S> or for further information email the school office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 6th May 2019. £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

Cold Weather Packs for Homeless:

The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing a thermal hat, gloves, two pairs of socks, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, pen and information sheet to people on the streets. Please consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

Repair of Calvary:

The ordering of the statues is now in hand, and we are hopeful that the Calvary will be restored in time for Holy Week and Easter.

Works in Church:

The works in the church porch and with the seating proceeds apace. You may notice in the back section of the closed-off part of the nave that a couple of seats have been stained and varnished. These are samples done so that we can judge which we would prefer. You are very cordially invited to let us know your preference – either by having a word with us outside the church, or sending an email to Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com