



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto: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)

## 28th April 2019 – Second Sunday of Easter THE RING OF TRUTH

One of the simple pleasures that I enjoyed while stationed in Paris was to walk along the Seine late on a sunny afternoon and enjoy the peace and beauty. The low rumble of the river barges carrying tourists from one place of interest to another could clearly be heard. The footpaths were relatively quiet – one was only occasionally passed by a young couple, holding hands, and seeing no sights other than those reflected in each others eyes! It was generally in such a tranquil setting that the “Paris Gold Ring” scammers operated.

The technique was simple – someone would walk past you, and a second later would call to you. As you turned around you would see them ‘picking up’ a gold ring from the footpath. Did it belong to me, they would ask, as they showed me the markings on it that ‘proved’ it was gold. Whether one said yes or no, they would try to wheedle money out of one as a reward for their ‘honesty’ in trying to find the owner. If I had held on to all the ‘golden’ rings that have been found around my feet and offered to me by the kind person who spotted it before I did, at this stage I would be able to open my own plumbing shop! No, I didn’t mean ‘jewellery’ – I meant ‘plumbing’ – because, despite their helpful efforts to point out to me the marking that ‘proves’ they were gold, these were in fact the compression rings used in joining copper tubing!

If these people only realised that they were in the halfpenny place when it comes to offering me “riches”! Because my fame for distributing charity to the poor has spread throughout the world, I am constantly approached by email by rich distressed widows from so many different countries who offer me the millions that have been left by their kind-hearted, but sadly deceased, husbands, who knew that I would use it to relieve the suffering poor of the world. And all I have to do is send the widow details of my bank account and how it can be accessed, so that, ahem, she can transfer the money right away – yeh, right away from my account into her account! Sadly, we live in a world full of con artists. It’s got a long history, from the serpent conning Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, and Jacob conning Esau out of his heritage, etc. With all the other art museums in London, I wonder is there one with the works of con artists?

But one guy who wasn’t going to be conned was Thomas in our gospel today. He’s had a rather poor press over the years – to be called a “doubting Thomas” is not seen as a compliment! And yet we owe Thomas for exposing for us the greatest con of all, the one without which most others cons could not work. How often has that con been worked on us – “don’t question my authority, my integrity, my honesty, my competence ..... in fact just don’t question me, you’re being a nuisance” – when our every instinct is telling us that not to question is simply the lazy or maybe cowardly way out! Despite what the ‘thought bullies’ say, sometimes it’s irresponsible not to question. Thomas didn’t believe, so why should he pretend he did? Politicians don’t like their politics being questioned; religious don’t like their religion being questioned; liberals don’t like their philosophy being questioned; parents don’t like their parenting being questioned. Questions are a perceived threat. But in a world without questions nobody learns very much. Our Gospel today encourages us not to be afraid to question, even our faith. Christ won’t feel threatened. If we allow Him, He’ll be happy to take us by the hand and lift us up – it’s much better than being down!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – Sheila Farrell; we remember those who have died recently – John MacDonagh; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – John McIntyre, Carmel Temple, Anne Gorman, Tom Doherty.**

**Visit of Passionist Jubilee Icon:** *(Modified and repeated for the benefit of those away over Easter)*

I have mentioned a few times recently that we – the Passionists – will be celebrating – by means of a Jubilee Year – the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding by St. Paul of the Cross. The official dates for the Jubilee are from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. To commemorate this major occasion in the history of our Congregation, our General Council commissioned an Icon, pictured right. It is a representation, in Byzantine style, of the Virgin Mary and St Paul of the Cross at the foot of the Crucified. This central section has two doors that, when opened, show St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, St. Gemma Galgani, Blessed Bro. Isidore de Loor and the ecumenical missionary, Blessed Dominic Barberi (of the Mother of God).



To emphasise and celebrate that we are a worldwide group dedicated to spreading a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Passion of Jesus, this icon – accompanied with a special relic of St. Paul of the Cross – is being brought to all the places where there are Passionist foundations today. Within the Jubilee year there would not be enough time to adequately do this, so the icon is already on tour, and has in fact arrived here in Highgate. It will be featured during all the masses next week-end, and we will be having a special ceremony on Monday evening in conjunction with the 6.30pm mass.

The visit of the icon here is, in a very real sense, a once in a lifetime special opportunity to celebrate the gift that the Passionists have been to this area of London over the last century and a half. Even within the lifespan of our present congregation many of you will have lasting memories of priests and brothers who served here and did so much to build up the sense of community and joy that still pervades the life of our parish. There will be a certain amount of display material in conjunction with the icon. Please avail of the opportunity to learn a little more about the world-wide mission of the Passionists, and perhaps reminisce about some of the Passionists who have served you in the past.

**Christian Stewardship and Lenten Project:**

Last week's collection amounted to £3,234. As this is one of our bi-annual (Christmas and Easter) collections towards the support of the Passionist Community here, we are particularly grateful for such outstanding generosity. Thanks also for your wonderful response to our Lenten Project in aid of Fr. Rick's work in Haiti. Very shortly a cheque for £6,000 will be on its way to him – a cheque that will make the difference between life and death for many of those for whom he works so faithfully. Though the Lenten Project is over you can still contribute to our Haiti Fund by means of the wall boxes at the back of the Church.

**Confirmation Group Bake Sale:**

This Sunday sees the annual bake sale by the Confirmation Class at 10 am, 12 pm and 7 pm Masses to raise money for the Cardinal Hume Centre as well as hosting a coffee morning after 10 am Mass. We are very proud of the commitment of our young people and the growth they have shown as they prepare for their Confirmation next month. We are very grateful for the support of the Parish Community throughout the programme, please keep them in your prayers and show your support for their efforts today by making a purchase, or a donation if you are still too full of chocolate from Easter!

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony:**

This annual event will be taking place this year in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you qualify, and would like to attend, please give to Fr. Pat the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

**Charismatic Prayer Group:**

The Charismatic Prayer Group resumes meetings this week Tuesday 30th April. Everyone welcome. Come and join us in the Red Room to praise and worship the Lord, and to pray for others and for our own intentions. A warm welcome awaits you. God bless.

**100 Club:**

The April Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 116 and the winners were: £400 Angela Bartley (54), £100 Oliver Foye (196), Joe Liddane (60). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The May draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.