



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)

28th October 2018 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Saints in Highgate

In a culture that values self over others; personal needs over the common good what is the meaning of doing good. Human beings are wired with an inherent desire and will to do good. Many preachers and theologians over the centuries have rejected that notion that we are naturally predisposed to do good. And they point to this doctrine that began somewhere around the second or the third century called 'Original Sin'. And the Original Sin speaks of the fallen nature of humanity; our depravity as a consequence of eating the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. It essentially says that after the fall of Adam humanity is born broken. We were born with initial proclivity not for good but for evil. It says that doing harm is inevitable for human beings. That we are born sinful and selfish.

But Scripture actually reminds us that we are originally designed and created to do good. And there is another, more important doctrine in the early church, called Imago Dei. This doctrine actually predates Christianity; predates the doctrine of Original Sin. Imago Dei is actually a doctrine of ancient Judaism; a Hebrew concept. And it says basically we are made in the image of God. It comes from the book of Genesis. God created man and woman in God's own image. That's what makes human beings distinct from all other animals that we bear the likeness of God in our moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature. That God-image is obscured and tarnished by our sinfulness, by our violence, and by our selfishness. But it's never destroyed. That image is always there within us. God gives us freedom to live up to that Imago Dei; or to reject it. The doctrine of Original Sin got it wrong. Doing harm as human is not inevitable. We have a choice. Yes, we fail. But we have a choice. Bearing the image of God, we possess the capacity to do terrible things as well. There are no "monsters"! There are only human beings those who live into their image of God or those who reject it. And most days we find ourselves somewhere in between!

And what is that God-image? It is the image of love. In our early childhood development there is a phenomenon called 'Imprinting'. It says that when a child looks into the face of her or his parents she or he takes on the characteristics, mannerisms, and behaviour of the parent. In other words, she or he becomes what she or he sees. We as humans when we look in to the face of a loving God we become more and more that love. God's face looks over all creation and upon all peoples. It is the boundless tender love! No judgment, no condemnation! As we look in the face of God, who can't take his eyes off us; we over time become more and more that love. And we then learn to see with the same eyes of love the faces of others. We are made to love and to do good the way God does. And we often fail miserably. Sometimes doing good is as simple as recognizing the good in others. Recognizing the Imago Dei in others. In all the threats that are up against it, all the things that threaten to deflect it; how do we do good? It begins by looking into the face of a good God. And then daring to reflect that goodness onto the faces of the people you see every day. And at the end of the day, you are like them and they are like you - All Saints!

Fr. George C.P.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish - Kevin Redmond, Elizabeth Casey; **we remember those who have died recently** – Molly Frank (funeral 12.00 noon Friday 9th November), Maria Bitner-Glindzicz, Georgina Moriarty; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Robbie McDonald, Ralph Crisp, Hannah Ahern, Matt Faherty, Mary O'Shea, Lilian Bates, Margaret & Edward Fogarty, Mick Faherty, Teresa Hartford.

All Saints Day:

Thursday this week is the Feast of All Saints and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be: 6.30pm Vigil on Wednesday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Thursday.

November Dead List:

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are now available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

Coffee Morning:

Our next Coffee Morning will be held next Sunday, 4th November, immediately after the 10am Mass. You're invited to take a little time to meet and greet your fellow parishioners. All welcome, young and old.

Parish Bazaar – November 24th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 24th of November which, believe it or not, is only **four weeks away**. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl, felicitymaynard@hotmail.com. And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,411. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

100 Club:

The October Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 101 and the winners were: £400 Mary Fysh (189), £100 Caroline Kennedy (38), £50 B. Traynor-Jones (141). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The November draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 25th November. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way. It has been the practice of the 100 Club to publish the names of winners each month, however if any member would prefer 'no publicity' please e-mail Ed at joseph.highgate@gmail.com and we will annotate our membership register accordingly.

Holy Land Olive Wood Sale:

On next weekend, 3rd/4th November, there will be a sale of olive wood carvings from the Holy Land (Bethlehem). We are the Good Shepherd Company from the Holy land (based in Nottingham) and working alongside St. Vincent De Paul society for orphans and elderly in the Holy land. Our goal is to support and help the Christian families in the holy land to stay in work, as olive wood products is one of their most important source of income - 90% of the Christians rely on these sales. So by selling their produce here (rosaries, crosses, cribs and religious statues) on their behalf, helps prevent the Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities, as a test survey from the bishops of Jerusalem there are only forty one thousands Christians left in the area.

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

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Parish Diaries:

St. Joseph's Parish Diaries for next year are now available in the Repository, along with 2019 Calendars.