



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.

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)

30th June 2019 – Ss. Peter and Paul

But It was Worth It

St. Joseph's is blessed with two commanding statues at the entrance; one of St. Peter and the other of St. Paul. They represent the Church's apostolicity and universality. St. Peter is depicted holding keys in one hand which recalls how Jesus gave him the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. And the upside down cross in the other hand speaks about the death he endured. He was crucified upside down out of love and respect for his Lord Jesus. His eyes are flooded with care and concern. And it reveals the heart of a pastor full of love for his people. St. Paul's statue depicts him looking out intently; with a book in his one hand and a sword in the other. Paul was beheaded; that is one reason why he is shown with a sword. The book symbolises his epistles in the New Testament which proclaim the glory of the risen Lord and the power of life in the Holy Spirit.

Near the end of their lives, both of them believed that the Lord stood by them even when everyone else had deserted them. They trusted that God was with them through thick and thin. And that trust held them steady right up to their final days and their martyrdom. In the second reading for today (2Timothy 4) Paul recites that he has fought the good fight and won the race. All he awaits now is his crown of righteousness. He feels he has lived a sacrificial life for the sake of Christ. And yet, even still, as we move into the second part of the passage, we hear him frustrated by those who left him alone at the end of his days. This of course is only human and it is certainly very Paul. Even in Paul's complaining he acknowledges that the Lord has not left him alone. And if we think back over Paul's letters to Timothy, Paul is aware of God at work not only in his own life, but also in the life of Timothy and others.

Today's passage is from one who is facing the end of life, and likely struggling with the question, "Was it all worth it? Did what I do matter?" Certainly, we can see that the life Paul lived mattered. We are reading his words nearly 2000 years later. Yet, what we can see as we read to the end of today's text is that ultimately, it is not Paul who is doing the accomplishing, but that God was working and moving through Paul.

As people near the end of a project, or a period in life, or even life itself, questions about worth will always surface. When we learn to lean on the truth that God is the one doing the work, it takes the pressure off of us and lets us not hold on to so much concern. Whether we are wondering if we did our job well enough, or if we taught our kids all they need to know, or if we did enough to help a classmate — we must trust that it is God working through us and God will accomplish God's goals, period.

Take courage in that thought this week and give thanks that we are all invited to participate in God's great work in this world.

- If you looked back at your life, at what points do you think you can look at something you were doing and say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith?"
- When you are finished with life, what would you like to think that people might say about you and why?
- What changes might such "legacy-thinking" bring about if we engaged in it on a frequent basis?
- What might we do in order to help others who may seek to live lives of which they might ultimately be proud?

Fr. George

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We pray for those who have died recently – Jerzy Henryk Mazur (funeral 12 noon Tuesday 9th July), John Fitzgerald (funeral 11.00am Thursday 11th July), Magella Sweeney, Pauline Daly, Francis Russo, Idrani Mylvaganam, Stephen Friday; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Ivan Zmertych, Anthony O'Malley.

Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning this coming Sunday, 7th July, immediately after the 10am Mass. Why not delay a little and enjoy a little time with other members of the Parish in the Red Room, or in the sunshine in the garden outside.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,535. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

Today is the Feast of SS. Peter & Paul and the annual Peter's Pence collection for Papal Charities will be taken up after all Masses this weekend.

Annual Mission Appeal:

It is usually during the month of October that we have the annual mission appeal from different religious communities working in various parts of the world to spread God's word through all forms of spiritual and material aid. For a variety of reasons this year it will be happening next Sunday. A member of the White Fathers will be addressing us at all the masses next week-end. We encourage you to come prepared to support their work with your usual generosity.

The "Missionaries of Africa", who are also known as The White Fathers, are an international team of priests, brothers and lay associates from Africa, Britain and many countries around the world. Any ministry which has a real relationship with Africa, no matter in what part of the world it may be, is considered by the Missionaries of Africa to be within the scope of their apostolate. Through parish work, building up small Christian communities, working with the media, involvement in justice and peace, agriculture, seminary training, education and social welfare the Missionaries of Africa aim to work in partnership with the Church in Africa . . . and above all else to help build up the leadership of the Churches. Within the Dioceses of Africa there are vast areas where the fulfilment of the Church's commission to the world has still to be initiated or consolidated, and it is especially here that the Missionaries of Africa find their task today.

100 Club:

The June Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 125 and the winners were: £400 Kathleen Fitzpatrick (23), £100 Tom Kelly (170), £50 Martha Casey (163). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 21st July. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Cemetery Mass:

The annual Cemetery Mass at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley will take place at 12 noon this coming Saturday, 6th July.

Passage Garden Party:

Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London, by attending The Passage annual Garden Party in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 18 July, from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Tickets at £45 each, include wine, soft drinks, buffet supper and live music. Tickets are available online through Eventbrite, or from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL. Tel: 020 75921856. Email: tickets@passage.org.uk It will not be possible to purchase tickets at the Abbey. All proceeds in aid of The Passage

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, operating the till and customer service. Full training will be given. You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.

Apologies and Thanks:

Let me get the thanks in first! Thanks to some magnificent responses to my remarks some weeks back about the difficulty in getting coin bags, I am now up to my neck in them! I even got some brought down from Liverpool! I doubt I'll be needing any more before next Christmas.

The apology relates to our Broadband, which has been out of operation since Wednesday morning. Despite all the politeness during telephone calls, and promises, and even a technician – the wrong one of course – turning up, still no sign of repair. So if you haven't got an expected response to an email, please be patient.