



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 September 2018 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Counting Our Blessings

As I write the bulletin article this week-end, I have to confess that I'm not quite giving it my full attention! There is one eye on the Ryder Cup. This is a golfing event that takes place every second year between the top golfers in the USA and the top golfers in Europe. It wasn't always that way. Originally it was a USA against "Great Britain and Ireland". They played 22 times, with 18 of them being won by the USA, and only 3 by Great Britain and Ireland. In 1979 it was decided that in future it should be between USA and Europe. And the results? Not including this year they have played 19 times, Europe winning 10 to USA's 8! Of course I don't want to be pointing out any obvious points to our political leaders, but notice how much better Europe does when we all play together! Enough golf, and certainly enough Brexit!

To move on to more significant Parish matters. Next week-end we hope to be starting the First Communion program, and it got me to thinking a little about some of the differences between what I experienced as a child and what happens nowadays. And one particular practice – that nowadays we all take for granted – particularly came to mind. When I was a child, before we made our First Communion, when my parents went up to receive, we children were left behind in the seats – with the warning, of course, to be sure that we behaved ourselves – not that we would have dreamed of doing anything other! Nowadays we encourage all children to come forward at communion time, and if they are not yet of an age to receive communion, they each receive a blessing.

I know there are good practical reasons for doing this – among other things it means that all the family can go to Communion together, rather than one parent going while the other keeps an eye on the children – but there are more positive, religiously significant reasons also why we encourage the practice. Yes, the receiving of communion is a key part of our celebration, but not the only part. As well as the Liturgy of the Eucharist we have the Liturgy of the Word. Our coming together is a powerful witness to the relevance of Christ's teaching to our modern world. It is also a powerful expression of our desire to grow closer together in the family of the church, and of our mutual need of one another's support. So, even if one can't receive communion, there are many other benefits to being part of the community on a Sunday morning.

But you may have noticed that it isn't just children who come forward to receive a blessing – many adults do likewise. I stress that I never try to judge "why a blessing, and not receiving". There can be all sorts of reasons, which are, as far as I'm concerned, between the person coming forward and God. But I do hope they are at least making a positive statement to the effect of something like - "I feel myself to be an integral part of this celebration, even if I cannot fully participate". And on our part it is a statement that "even though you cannot fully participate, we want you to feel welcome, and we ask God to shower His blessings on you". (Not the most theological of language, but you know what I mean.)

So, if you haven't been aware of this custom here, and if for any reason you cannot receive Communion, then please feel invited to come forward at communion time, with your arms in the form of an 'X' across your chest, and receive an assurance of God's blessing. We certainly don't count ourselves among those disciples in today's Gospel who wanted to place restrictions on the handing out of God's blessing! And we know that if we give you even a cup of coffee in His name, we "will not lose our reward" – and we need all the rewards we can get!

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We remember those who have died recently – Kathleen Crowe, Ann Coughlan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Patrick Buckley, Agnes Murphy, Dr. Ernest Cooke.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

Completed forms must be returned by **30th September**. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time. The first session will be **7th October** for Group A, and **14th October** for Group B - groups will be allocated and details sent to parents/carers during this coming week.

Coffee Morning:

Our next Coffee Morning will be held next Sunday, 7th October, 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,423. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks again for your generous support of our parish.

Inclusive Mass at St Mellitus:

St Mellitus Church Tollington Park, London, N4 3AG invites you to their Inclusive Mass at 10:30 am on 7th October. Inclusive Mass is an opportunity for us to extend a special welcome to those with learning disabilities and their friends and families. All are welcome and there will be interactive music and performance for those who wish to join in and refreshments afterwards. Those who would like to get involved can meet at 9:30 am in the hall. For more information contact Anna Gavurin, annagavurin@rcdow.org.uk, 07525812508.

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. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course– for adults interested in becoming Catholics will start shortly, provided we have enough applications before mid-October. The course is free. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com

CAFOD Fast Day:

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is this Friday, 7th October. We are invited to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, and donate the money saved. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope in the porch and give what you can. There will be Fast Day collection after Masses next weekend.

Evening of Adoration:

The Charismatic Prayer Group invite you to an Evening of Adoration and Intercession at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9th October in the Lady Chapel. Come and join us in Adoration and in prayers of intercession before the Blessed Sacrament. Please see poster on church noticeboard.

Organ Recital postponed:

The organ recital previously advertised for this week will now be held at a later date.

100 Club:

The September Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 102 and the winners were: £400 Maureen Bocking (129), £100 Martha Casey (163), £50 Ita Watters (39). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. 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.

Parish Bazaar – November 24th:

Please **put the date in your diary**, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

Bright Stars Play Group:

The St Joseph's Parish Bright Stars Stay and Play for 0-5 year olds is now back during the school term. It will run on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00am in the parish centre. Lots of fun activities and arts and crafts. They are also looking for more volunteers to help at the stay and play. Please call Lucy on 07798 797 390 or email stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com if you would be interested in volunteering.