



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

Registered Charity 1173084

PARISH BULLETIN

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11 FEBRUARY 2024

Why Ashes?



From the early days of our faith, Christians have observed the remembrance of Christ's passion and resurrection with great reverence. It became the custom to prepare for that observance by a season of prayer and fasting, and the reconciliation of those who had been separated from the community of faith. By keeping the season of Lent, we take to heart God's call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and practice in our daily lives the work of reconciliation.

I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To make a right beginning to this season it is appropriate to receive the mark of ashes as a reminder of our mortal nature and of God's invitation to receive Christ's redeeming work. The season of Lent culminates with Easter, the joyous and hopeful celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter. We send ashes out because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn't be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us. There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith, for the support of others and of the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. But God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others today.

As Lent begins, It would be great to set out specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them - for instance, by participating in daily Mass when we can and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation more often.

If you would like to talk with us about delving deeper into a spiritual journey, call or e-mail us. We would be pleased to hear from you.

A Lenten Prayer

God of the Desert,
we can journey confidently into Lent,
following Christ, who leads into the unknown.
You free us from our own imprisonment,
you bring healing for our illnesses,
you put our sin behind you,
you are accustomed to dust,
you show us it is not the end,
you confirm and strengthen us,
in goodness, you keep us in life eternal,
in and through Jesus Christ
who bore the cost of love
and endured to the end. Amen



Confirmation 2024

- Our program pauses
now for half term.
There is no session
this weekend and we
resume on Sunday
25th February at
5.30pm as usual.

Parish Centre

Dear Parishioners

For many years, St Joseph's Parish Centre has been an integral hub for our parish community. It is located just behind the main church and features several communal activity rooms and a licensed bar.

Our Parish Newsletter and website will regularly feature news on events and activities at the Parish Centre for our St Joseph's community to participate in and enjoy.

Aligned to the governance of the parish, the operations of the Parish Centre are overseen by the Parish Centre Committee, on behalf of the Trustees of St Joseph's. The terms of reference for the committee is available on our parish website at stjosephshighgate.org.uk.

The Trustees are currently seeking volunteer members for the Parish Centre Committee and welcome all parishioners who are keen on undertaking the role to apply. If you would like to serve on the committee, please send an email stating your interest to stjosephsparishcentrecommittee@gmail.com by Thursday 15 February.



Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

14th February 2024

May the God who sees our giving,
May the God who hears our praying,
May the God who sustains in our fasting,
May the God who knows our motives,
Hold in trust our reward for all eternity. Amen.

9:30am, 6:30pm

We worship and serve a "give first" God, who calls us to imitate God's selfless, life-giving ways. When we give to what God cares about, we share in the work of building God's Kingdom. When we give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love.



Last weekend's collection amounted to £1503. Exit Collection-£510. Thank you very much.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The cross is the word of hope and mercy to all the crucified of the world; for those who are oppressed, the sick, the poor, and marginalized. Victims of violence and abuse still find the courage to turn their gaze to the One who was pierced. From this look of divine love, they receive comfort, peace, consolation, and mercy, even the strength to forgive their executioners.



What would man be without the cross of Christ? St. Paul of the Cross replied, "Meditation on Jesus Christ crucified is a precious balm which sweetens all pains." So, Pope Francis invites us to continue this Way of the Cross in our daily lives. "Let us walk together along the Way of the Cross and let us do so carrying in our hearts this word of love and forgiveness."

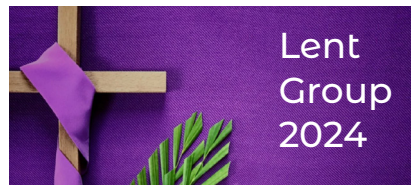
Stations of the Cross: Every Friday of Lent immediately after 6:30PM Mass.

PLEASE PRAY

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR GRIEVING FAMILIES



Olivia Freitas (Mon. 26 Feb. 11am)



This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us' - Fr Alexander Schmemmann

Looking for inspiration this Lent? Our Lent Group is right here to provide you with bite-sized reflections, prayers and insights to guide, encourage and challenge you as we approach Easter.

Our Lent Group meets in the Red Room at 11am every Lenten Tuesdays (February 20th - March 19th) We follow Westminster Course for 2024 "We Dare to Say."

Please find the sign-up chart in the church porch and let us have your contact number or email if you would like to join us. We look forward to meeting you and journeying together with you this Lent!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



We'll be thinking about
Try to think of some other bible stories that tell us about Jesus curing the sick. Jesus cured the man with leprosy, he made a choice to do this. We can all make good choices like Jesus



We'll be talking about...
What is leprosy?
Who else did Jesus help?
What do you think you could say in your prayers to God to ask him to help someone who is sick?



We'll be praying for...
Someone you know who is sick



Our Gospel is about...
Jesus continues to heal the sick in this week's Gospel. Jesus helped people who suffered from all sorts of illnesses. He heals a man with leprosy and the man tells everyone.



- Sarah Duncan

Church Cleaners



Do you have one hour to spare once a week on a Friday afternoon? Join one of our friendly church cleaning teams for hoovering, light mopping and good company to keep our church looking in good order. All help welcome and appreciated. For more information, please contact the parish office at joseph.highgate@gmail.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Save the Date

Prepared by the women of Palestine.

At St. Joseph's Highgate
FRIDAY | 1 | MARCH 2PM
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'
Help would be appreciated.

Mass intentions from 10th to 17th February 2024

"I would be disobeying the LORD if I stopped praying for you!" 1 Sam. 12:23

Date	Time	Intention	Category
Sat, 10 Feb 2024	07.00 pm	Brendan Plunkett	Anniversary
Sun, 11 Feb 2024	08.00 am	Missa PP	Intentions
	10.00 am	Missa PP, Jacqui Morris	Lately Dead
	12 noon	Romana Oleska, Sheila Buckley	Lately Dead
	07.00 pm	Ann McLoughlin(LD) Bridie O'Donnell	Anniversary
Mon, 12 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Justina Onyekweke	Sick
	06.30 pm	Kieran Quilligan	Lately Dead
Tues, 13 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Phonsie Miley	Lately Dead
	06.30 pm	Mary Rowland McNamara	Intentions
Wed, 14 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Rosilla & John	Sick
	06.30 pm	Sheila Buckley	Lately Dead
Thur, 15 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Phonsie Miley	Lately Dead
	06.30 pm	Gerry Burke	Anniversary
Fri, 16 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Jonathan Keaney	Lately Dead
	06.30 pm	Sheila Buckley, Josie Kelly	Lately Dead
Sat, 17 Feb 2024	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions

Mass Intentions get fully booked for several weeks ahead. If you would like a Mass said on a particular date or anniversary it is advisable to request it in good time.

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SUN: Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46, 1 Cor 10: 31 - 11: 1, Mk 1: 40-45 **Mon:** Jas 1: 1-11, Mk 8: 11-13, **Tue:** Jas 1: 12-18, Mk 8: 14-21, **Ash Wednesday.** Begin Lenten preparation for the Easter Triduum. NOT a holy day of obligation. Day of fast (ages 18-59) and abstinence from meat (age 14 and up). Jl 2: 12-18, 2 Cor 5: 20 - 6:2, Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18. **Thu:** Dt 30: 15-20, Lk 9: 22-25, **Fri:** Day of abstinence from meat (age 14 and up). Is 58: 1-9a, Mt 9: 14-15 **Sat:** Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Is 58: 9b-14, Lk 5: 27-32, **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** Gn 9: 8-15, 1 Pt 3: 18-22, Mk 1: 12-15

Welcome to St. Joseph

God loves everyone. No exceptions.
St. Joseph's Welcomes You. We are here for you!
We Invite you to join us on the spiritual journey as we learn and grow together, and as we seek to help and serve others.

MASS TIMES - Weekdays: 9:30am, 6:30pm,
Saturdays: 9:30am followed by adoration until 11am,
7pm Vigil Mass. Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 7pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 10am to 10:30am and from 6:30pm to 6:45pm. Weekdays on request

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