



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

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PARISH BULLETIN

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THE WISDOM OF TREES



As we gather this Sunday, let us pause and reflect upon the serene wisdom found in our natural surroundings, drawing inspiration from Judith Polich's enchanting book, 'Why Can't We Be More Like Trees?'. Her narrative invites us to contemplate the profound lessons that trees have to offer, lessons that resonate deeply with our spiritual journey.

Polich illustrates how trees embody resilience and adaptability. They weather storms, droughts, and the changing seasons, yet they remain steadfast and rooted. This steadfastness encourages us to anchor ourselves in faith, especially during turbulent times. Just as a tree's roots dig deep into the earth to find nourishment, we too must ground ourselves in the teachings of Christ, seeking strength and sustenance from His word.

Moreover, trees are magnificent exemplars of patience and growth. A sapling does not become a towering oak overnight; it takes years of gradual, consistent growth. Similarly, our spiritual growth is a process that unfolds over time. We must have patience with ourselves and with each other, recognizing that each step on our journey is part of God's divine plan.

Polich also highlights the interconnectedness of trees within a forest, their roots forming a vast, unseen network that supports and nourishes one another. This imagery powerfully mirrors our Christian community. We are not solitary beings; we are part of a vibrant, interconnected body of Christ. When we support and uplift each other, we create a robust, thriving community, capable of withstanding life's tempests.

Lastly, Polich speaks of the grace and tranquility that trees exude simply by being. They do not strive or hurry; they exist in harmony with the natural world, reaching towards the heavens in quiet, steadfast faith. This teaches us the value of presence, of finding peace in our daily lives, and of trusting in God's timing. As we leave the sanctuary today, may we carry with us the quiet wisdom of trees. Let us be resilient in faith, patient in growth, supportive in community, and tranquil in spirit. In doing so, we mirror the calm, enduring beauty of God's creation, becoming living testaments to His grace and love.

Blessings to all, and may your week be filled with the serenity and strength that trees inspire. Amen.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



We're counting the days to our Christmas Bazaar on November 30 and know we can count on you to make it the happy, warm and welcoming event we all enjoy. We are on the lookout for helpers: setting up, running a stall and of course, clearing up afterwards. Please contact Fr George if you would like to be involved.

We have a vacancy in Santa's Workshop - could you be the elf who shows children how to make Christmas crafts, or do Face painting? Do you have an idea for a new stall that you'd like to run? Suggest away! We're already looking forward to one innovation, an Art Stall where the Parish artists will be selling some of their paintings and drawings!

Without your donations there wouldn't be a Bazaar, and the Parish is so grateful for your generosity. This year we are looking for donations of new,

unused items whether for the home, or garden or as gifts for a special someone, things that you don't want but someone else might love. New children's toys are also welcome. We need books in good condition, unread is even better. The gardening and house plant stall needs your support, and we are seeking luxury food items for our hampers. Homemade preserves go down well while the bottle stall and Raffle are waiting for your donations. Our Confirmation Class will be baking for us, but more cakes are always welcome.

Our Choir are practising hard to entertain us and if you would like to perform, let us know!



Beginning Experience weekend

4-6 October 2024 at the Sion Community, Brentwood. Gentle accompaniment for the separated, divorced or bereaved to help move from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning.

<https://beginningexperienceg.bandic.org/south-of-england>

Emmaus weekend for Men

The Oratory School, Reading – are you seeking a personal encounter with Jesus, or to find a new path in life? 25-27 October 2024, cost £210. To book, complete the online form at :



This weekend, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Maggie Feely-Maxwell for generously sponsoring the Altar Flowers in memory of her beloved sister Michele Feely and dad John Feely. Your thoughtfulness and generosity bring a touch of beauty and elegance to our sacred space. May your kind gesture be abundantly blessed and may the fragrance of these flowers fill your heart with joy. Thank you, Maggie for your continued support and dedication to our parish community.

THANK YOU, THALES GROUP

We are immensely grateful for the incredible kindness and generosity displayed by the 10 staff members of the Thales Group who devoted their time and effort to volunteer at our church last Thursday. Their dedication was truly inspiring as they diligently cleaned our High Altar, the Altar of St. Michael, and the altar candle stands. Their hard work has significantly enhanced the beauty and sanctity of our sacred spaces.

A special thank you goes out to Offiong Basse for his exemplary leadership in organizing this wonderful initiative. His coordination and commitment ensured that everything ran smoothly and efficiently. We are deeply moved by their willingness to support our church, and we assure them of our continued love and prayers. May God bless each one of them abundantly for their selfless service and generosity.

Confirmation 2025 & Communion 2025

Exciting News! Applications for St. Joseph's Confirmation and Communion Programmes for 2025 are available from September 1st in the Church porch.



Confirmation: For those entering Year 9 or above, application forms for the coming year's Confirmation course will be available in the Church porch from 1st September and must be returned along with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate by 1st October at the latest. The course begins in November, with the sacrament being conferred on Sunday 29th June at 12 pm-Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. There are 12 sessions which take place on Sunday evenings at 5.30pm and include attendance at the 7pm Mass. There are an additional 2 sessions with parents. You can already email your interest to confirmation.joseph@gmail.com and you will receive a reminder when the forms are available.

Communion: For children aged seven and above in Year 3 or higher, forms are due by November 1st. Preparation takes place during the 10am Sunday Mass from January to June. Email communion.joseph@gmail.com for more details. Visit our website for further information and join us in this sacred journey of faith at St. Joseph's Parish!



Please pray for the recently deceased members of our Parish and their grieving families. May we lift up in prayer the souls of our departed sisters and brothers from our parish, may they find eternal peace in the arms of our loving God. And may we ask for comfort and strength for their families as they navigate through their grief and loss. Let us come together in solidarity and support, holding each other up in prayer during this difficult time.

- Paul Joseph Egan**
(Mon. 16th Sep. 2024 11am)
- Katie Tannett**
(Wed. 18th Sep. 11am)
- Patricia Theresa Corbett**
(Wed. 25th Sep. 11:30am)
- Sheila Hunt**
(Wed. 2nd Oct. 11am)

Christmas Market

Save the Date
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Sat. 30 Nov. 2024

Thank You, Dearest friends,

With hearts full of gratitude, we extend our sincerest thanks to all who so generously contributed to last weekend's collection. Your kindness and support are pillars upon which we continue to serve and nurture God's Kingdom. United in purpose and love, we have the power to make a significant difference in our world. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed, and we are profoundly grateful. Last weekend's collection amounted to a remarkable £1704, a testament to your unwavering commitment and compassion. May God's boundless blessings shower upon you and your loved ones. Thank you once again for your extraordinary support.



ADULT CONFIRMATION AND RCIA



We are delighted to share that a blessed journey towards Adult Confirmation is beginning to take shape within our community. If your heart is calling you to complete your initiation into the Catholic Church with the grace-filled Sacrament of Confirmation, we warmly invite you to reach out to us. In addition, if you are contemplating embracing the Catholic faith and would like to embark on this spiritual preparation starting in October, we are here to support and guide you through this beautiful journey. Interviews and more information are available for those discerning this sacred path.

To arrange for an interview or to learn more about the RCIA program, please kindly email us at: rcia.joseph@gmail.com

Autumn Faith-Sharing Group

Dear Parishioners,

We are delighted to invite you to join us for another inspiring initiative at St. Joseph's: The Autumn Faith-Sharing Group! Modelled after our highly successful Lent Groups, this autumn session promises to be a wonderful journey of faith and community.

This season, we will be exploring the beautiful book "Calling People of Goodwill: The Bible and the Common Good." Through our discussions, we will delve into Scripture, engage in



meaningful dialogue, and learn from one another. With God's grace, we will work together to promote the common good within our parish and beyond.

Your participation will surely enrich this experience, and we encourage everyone to join us. Please stay tuned for further details regarding dates and registration in the upcoming weeks.

Let us come together to deepen our faith and strengthen our sense of community. Watch this space for more exciting updates!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 15 September 2024

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

Date	Time	Intention	Category
Sat, 14 Sep 2024	07.00 pm	Kevin Devane, Una Phelan	Lately Dead
Sun, 15 Sep 2024	08.00 am	Missa PP	Intentions
	10.00 am	Dr. Loporte Khoo	Anniversary
	12 noon	Betty Thursfield(LD), Anton Coyle	Anniversary
Mon, 16 Sep 2024	07.00 pm	All Souls	Anniversary
	09.30 am	All Souls	Anniversary
Tue, 17 Sep 2024	06.30 pm	Votive - Precious Blood	Intentions
	09.30 am	Sr. Carmel Reaney	Intentions
Wed, 18 Sep 2024	06.30 pm	Votive - Precious Wounds of Jesus	Intentions
	09.30 am	Mary McGovern	Intentions
Thu, 19 Sep 2024	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	09.30 am	Sr. Catherine Vaughan	Intentions
Fri, 20 Sep 2024	06.30 pm	Lizzie	Intentions
	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Sat, 21 Sep 2024	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	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.

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Is 50: 5-9a, Jas 2: 14-18, Mk 8: 27-35, **Mon:** Cornelius, pp, mt, and Cyprian, bp, mt M, 1 Cor 11: 17-26. 33, Lk 7: 1-10, **Tue:** Robert Bellarmine, bp, mt, r, dr/ Hildegard of Bingen, v, ab, dr, 1 Cor 12: 12-14. 27-31a, Lk 7: 11-17, **Wed:** 1 Cor 12: 31 13: 13, Lk 7: 31-35, **Thu:** Januarius, bp, mt, 1 Cor 15: 1-11, Lk 7: 36-50, **Fri:** Andrew Kim Taegon, p, mt, Paul Chong Hasang, ca, mt, & co., mts M, 1 Cor 15: 12-20, Lk 8: 1-3, **Sat:** Matthew, ap, ev F, Eph 4: 1-7. 11-13, Mt 9: 9-13, **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** Wis 2: 12. 17-20, Jas 3: 16 4: 3, Mk 9: 30-37

