



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

OPEN | AFFIRMING | INCLUSIVE

PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE, Tel: 020 7272 2320
Email: joseph.highgate@gmail.com
gaskoloth@hotmail.com - Fr. George, cpjenish@gmail.com - Fr. Jenish

25
DECEMBER
2024



Registered Charity 1173084

Merry Christmas

Dear St. Joseph's Family,

May the radiant light of the newborn King fill your hearts with peace,
your homes with joy, and your spirits with hope.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas!



Welcome to St. Joseph's Church, Highgate: A Place Just for You

This Christmas, we invite you to find your place here, in the warm embrace of St. Joseph's Church, Highgate. Like a gentle snowfall that blankets the earth, our community wraps itself around each and every soul—saints and seekers, the certain and the questioning, the lost and the found, the dreamers and the wanderers. Whether you come alone or with loved ones, are filled with faith or just a flicker of wonder, our doors are wide open for you.

Here, we celebrate the essence of Jesus' message—that love knows no boundaries. Everyone, in all their unique and sacred worth, is cherished and embraced. No matter where you're from or where you're headed, no matter your story, your identity, or your past, you hold a special place with us. Your journey is valued, and your presence enriches our shared path.



So come as you are, and be part of our vibrant tapestry of life. Join us as we light up this joyous season with hope, love, and unity. You belong here at St. Joseph's Church, Highgate—a community where hearts and arms are perpetually open, and where you are always at home.



Supporting Our Parish: An Expression of Gratitude

At St. Joseph, our vibrant community flourishes because of your incredible generosity, for which we are deeply grateful. Our faith encourages us to give joyfully, reflecting the priorities of our hearts, rather than out of obligation. When Christ is at the centre of our lives, supporting the church becomes a natural expression of our spiritual dedication. Indeed, we rely entirely on your generous contributions to sustain St. Joseph. Without the kind-heartedness of our community, our parish simply couldn't continue to thrive.

Remember, God doesn't seek your money—He desires your heart. We give as a response to the myriad blessings God has bestowed upon us. Through giving, we worship and mirror the selfless love of a "give-first" God. When we invest in what God cherishes, we actively contribute to building His Kingdom and relish the joy of sharing in His abundant love.

Ways to Give:

- **Giving Stands:** Use the newly installed 'Giving Stands' at the church's entrance.
- **Online:** Donate via PayPal on our website.
- **Standing Order & Gift Aid:** Request forms or find them on our website.
- **Legacy Gift:** Consider including us in your will or trust to support future church endeavours.

Thank you for your continued support in nurturing our beloved parish.



Jubilee Year

Opening: The Jubilee Year 2025 will officially open on December 24, 2024, at 7:00 PM, with the traditional rite of Opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. This ceremony will be followed by the celebration of the Night Mass of the Lord's Birth inside the Basilica.

Closing: The Jubilee Year will come to an end on January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, with the closing of the Holy Door.

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen



Dear Beloved Parishioners,

As the Christmas season envelops us with its warmth and joy, I find myself filled with immense gratitude for the wonderful community we share. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the children who brought the Christmas pageant to life with their delightful performances. Your energy and enthusiasm sparkled brightly on stage, reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas.

To the parents, we are grateful for your unwavering support and dedication. A special thank you to our incredible directors, El, Kate, and Sara, for their creativity, patience, and hard work in choreographing such a memorable production.

We are also deeply thankful to El and Leo for installing the beautiful crib in front of the church, and to Jane and Dominic for the exquisite crib at the altar. Your craftsmanship and care have added a sacred beauty to our celebrations.

A big thank you to Maureen, our talented florist, whose arrangements have adorned our church with elegance and grace. Our appreciation extends to all members of the Finance Committee, Conservation and Development Committee, Parish Centre Committee, and Parish Council for your unwavering support and dedication throughout the year.

Thank you, a million times, my beloved parishioners, for your love and commitment. Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas!

With heartfelt gratitude,

CHRISTMAS EVE, YEAR C

December 24, 2024

Reader: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfilment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighbourhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the centre candle of the Advent wreath.



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.

- **Robert Caleb Howard** (Fri. 3 Jan. 12pm) • **John Sean Hyde** (Thu. 9 Jan. 11:30am)
- **Martin Sterrett** (Fri. 10 January 11am)



PARISH
MASS
BOOK
PAGE: 94, 92
& 100