



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

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PARISH BULLETIN

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T.S. Eliot's "Ash Wednesday"



As we contemplate the spiritual journey of Lent, T.S. Eliot's "Ash Wednesday" offers a profound meditation on conversion and transformation—a journey from spiritual desolation to divine hope. This poem, often considered Eliot's personal reflection on faith, not only marks his own path towards Anglicanism but also invites each of us into a deep introspection of our own spiritual lives.

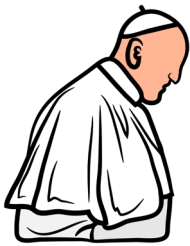
Eliot begins with a stark admission of despair, "Because I do not hope to turn again," capturing the profound weight of spiritual exhaustion and the profound need for repentance. Yet, even within these expressions of doubt, there exists an innate yearning for renewal—a common thread in our Lenten reflections, as we seek to turn away from sin and towards the light of Christ.

The poem gracefully transitions from images of spiritual barrenness to those

of hope and redemption. In his invocation of the Virgin Mary with "Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death," Eliot aligns himself with the heart of Christian tradition, underscoring the intercessory role of the sacred in guiding us through our darkest times. Mary, as a symbol of purity and hope, becomes a beacon, guiding the poet—and us—towards spiritual renewal.

Eliot's poignant imagery and rhythmic incantations create a sacred space where doubt coalesces into faith. He writes, "Teach us to care and not to care," suggesting a surrender to divine will, an acknowledgment of our human limitations, and an embrace of God's infinite wisdom. It's a call to trust, much like our Lenten journey where we let go of worldly attachments and deepen our reliance on God.

Ultimately, "Ash Wednesday" is an invitation to enter into the mystery of faith, to journey through our deserts of doubt, and to emerge into the light of resurrection. As we read Eliot's words, may we find solace and inspiration in knowing that through our struggles, there is grace, and through our seeking, there is the promise of renewal. May this Lenten season lead us, like Eliot, from ashes to the hope of new life in Christ.



Heavenly Father,
We lift up Pope Francis to
You in prayer. Grant him
strength, comfort, and
healing in body and spirit.
May Your loving presence
surround him, bringing
peace and restoration. Guide
the hands of those caring for
him, and fill his heart with
hope and resilience.
Amen.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the sacred Lenten season, a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. As we receive ashes, we are reminded of our shared humanity and the call to live with kindness and compassion. Join us for a moment of worship and introspection. We are holding three masses on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th, at 9:30am, 11am, and 6:30pm.**

Please come and worship with us as we embark on this spiritual journey together.



Join Us for the Stations of the Cross

Discover the profound message of hope and mercy that the cross offers to everyone, especially to the oppressed, the sick, the poor, and the marginalized. In a world filled with suffering, the cross stands as a beacon of divine love, granting comfort, peace, and the incredible strength to forgive. St. Paul of the Cross once said, "Meditation on Jesus Christ crucified is a precious balm which sweetens all pains." Inspired by Pope Francis, we invite you to embrace this journey of love and forgiveness in your daily life.



Walk with us along the Way of the Cross every Friday of Lent, immediately following the 6:30 PM Mass. Together, let's carry in our hearts this enduring message of love and forgiveness. We look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with you.

Children's Liturgy

Our mission is to serve God and His people of St. Joseph's by helping children to engage meaningfully in the Liturgy, thus beginning a lifelong practice of praying, learning, and celebrating at Mass. During the 10am Mass, children will be dropped off and signed in and the children will return to mass, after the homily, for the Liturgy of The Eucharist. During this time, we will unpack the Gospel and Mass for children ages 4-7 years old.

Please contact our Children's Liturgy Coordinators for registration: Jenny Buckley jenbuckley@hotmail.co.uk or Sara Zmertych sara.zmertych@gmail.com



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.



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.

Frederick Gatonye Njenga (Tue. 4th Mar. 11am)
Nigel Ellis (Mon. 10 Mar. 11am)

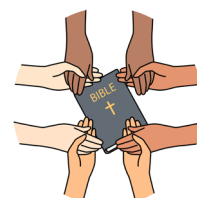
Mass intentions from 1st March 2025

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

Sat, 01 Mar 2025	07.00 pm	Eileen&Martin Murray(Intn), Mary Keating, Margaret Killian, Kathleen Cullen(LD)	Anniversary
Sun, 02 Mar 2025	08.00 am	Koffi Bernard Konan(LD) Toni MacIntyre	Anniversary
	10.00 am	Baby Callum Gomez Corcoran, Ineke Burke	Anniversary
	12 noon	Jordan Leyland, Marion Hills, Ettie-Boitel-Gill	Lately Dead
	07.00 pm	Missa PP, Lisa Marie Myers, Selenio Picardi	Anniversary
Mon, 03 Mar 2025	09.30 am	Kathleen Kate O'Regan	Anniversary
	06.30 pm	Peter & Lawrence Whitehead	Lately Dead
Tues, 04 Mar 2025	09.30 am	Anne Reilly(Birthday) Mathew Tynan	Lately Dead
	06.30 pm	All Souls	Anniversary
Wed, 05 Mar 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	John McCormack	Anniversary
Thur, 06 Mar 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Fri, 07 Mar 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Sat, 08 Mar 2025	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.

Join Our Lent Groups: A Journey of Faith and Renewal



'Getting Closer to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit'. Ecumenical. All very welcome. Scripture based. No need to buy a book. Materials will be provided.

Once weekly, 6 weeks. The first session will be centred around Abraham and the three visitors (Genesis 18, 1-15) and Andrei Rublev's icon The Trinity. Subsequent sessions will use Jesus's Last Discourse (Gospel of John, Chapters 14-17). We will use the lectio divina framework: a meditative and prayerful reading of the biblical text.

Three options:

1. Tuesday evenings online via Zoom, 19:00-20:30. Starting 4 March-8 April.
2. Wednesday mornings, 11:00-12:30. Venue: Highgate Care Home (BUPA), 12 Hornsey Lane, London N6 5LX (2 minutes' walk from St Joseph's Church. This group is open to non-residents. Starting 5 March-9 April.
3. Thursday evenings: 19:00-20:30. St Joseph's Church, 107 Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE. Red Room. Starting 6 March-10 April.

To register or for further information: email georgefarrelly@icloud.com (please put Lent Group in the Subject box).

World Day of Prayer

Join us for the World Day of Prayer 2025 on Friday, March 7th! Embracing the theme "I Made You Wonderful," inspired by Psalm 139:1-18, this year's program, beautifully prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands, invites everyone to celebrate the unique and loving creation each person embodies. We warmly welcome you to two special services: at 10:30 am at St. Peter's Church, Albion Avenue, and at 2 pm at United Reformed Church, Pond Square. Enjoy refreshments and fellowship afterward. Discover, reflect, and celebrate self-worth and the value of others together.



We are profoundly grateful for your generous contributions to last weekend's collection, totalling an impressive £1,666.49. Your kindness and support empower us to serve and nurture God's Kingdom. Together, we make a significant impact on our community and beyond. May God's blessings shower upon you and your loved ones. Thank you sincerely for your support.

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Sir 27: 4-7, 1 Cor 15: 54-58, Lk 6: 39-45, **Mon:** Katharine Drexel, v, rf, Sir 17: 20-24, Mk 10: 17-27, **Tue:** Casimir, Sir 35: 1-12, Mk 10: 28-31, **Wed:** 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:** Perpetua and Felicity, mts. Day of abstinence from meat (age 14 and up). Is 58: 1-9a, Mt 9: 14-15, Sat: John of God, rf, Is 58: 9b-14, Lk 5: 27-32, **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** Dt 26: 4-10. Rom 10: 8-13. Lk 4: 1-13