



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

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PARISH BULLETIN

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The Cross We Cannot Hide



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross calls us to look directly at something the world often tries to avoid: the reality of suffering, weakness, and death. More and more, crosses are being removed from schools, hospitals, and public places, as if the world wishes to erase the reminder of human frailty. Yet for us as Christians, the cross is not a symbol of defeat but the great sign of victory and hope.

Our culture longs for a neat and tidy death, one untouched by weakness or loss of dignity. But death is rarely clean. It comes with pain, struggle, and often dependence on others. Sallie Tisdale reminds us that we cannot control every detail of our dying, and that the pursuit of "dignity" at all costs may blind us to what is most human. Jesus, in His own dying, teaches us that true dignity is not lost in suffering. His humanity revealed in weakness on the

cross becomes the greatest manifestation of God's glory.

It was precisely in that moment of surrender, when the Beloved Son was nailed and broken, that the Father intervened with the unimaginable gift of resurrection. The lesson is clear: every cross we carry today—whether illness, grief, fear, or quiet daily struggles—is an opportunity for the Father to act within us. Just as He did not abandon Jesus, He will not abandon us. Our crosses prepare the way for resurrection.

Even our funeral symbols speak this truth. At funerals we do not place a crucifix on the coffin but stand a Paschal Candle beside it. The crucifix reminds us that death is real, but the candle proclaims that death does not have the last word. Life in Christ will always rise. So let us never be ashamed of the cross, but exalt it. In our crosses, God is near. In our Good Fridays, Easter dawn is already waiting.

Blessing of Pets -

Sunday 5th October 2025



We will hold the Blessing of Pets on Sunday 5th October 2025 after the 10am Mass at St. Joseph's Church. This tradition is linked to St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast we celebrate on 4th October. St. Francis is known for his love of God's creation and his closeness to animals, seeing in them the beauty and praise of the Creator. All parishioners are warmly invited to bring their pets for this special blessing.

Thanks a Million



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Maureen Bocking, our parish florist, for her faithful care in adorning our sanctuary with beauty. Through her dedication, flowers and arrangements lift our hearts and draw our eyes to God, reminding us that true beauty always leads us closer to Him. Thank you, Maureen, for making St. Joseph's a place where our sacred space reflects the splendour and glory of the One we worship.

Join Us for the Solemn Rosary

Dear St. Joseph's Family,

As we embrace the beauty of October, the month devoted to the holy Rosary, we invite you to join us in prayerful reflection and devotion. Each Saturday at 10am throughout October, we will gather at St. Joseph's to pray the Solemn Rosary together. Let us come together in faith, unity, and love to honour Our Lady and seek her intercession. Your presence will be a cherished part of our communal prayer. May the peace and blessings of Our Lady be with you always.



Wine of Hope

Monday 8th December 2025 at 5PM

We warmly invite you to our annual "Wine of Hope" gathering, a cherished event dedicated to celebrating the Christian ministry of healing. This tradition, which began during the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception amidst the pandemic, finds inspiration in the compassionate narrative of the Good Samaritan. Drawing on St. Augustine's profound insight into the "wine of hope," we are reminded of the



transformative power of offering hope and healing to those in need.

In these times, our mission is more important than ever: to instil hope and

compassion, especially for those suffering in mind and body. We will have Mass at 5 p.m., followed by a heartwarming gathering with refreshments in the Red Room. Whether you serve in the healthcare profession or care for loved ones at home, your presence is a gift to our community.

Come, be part of this sacred moment of prayer and reflection. We look forward to welcoming you with open arms and hearts.



Celebrate Life's Special Moments at St. Joseph's Parish Centre

From christenings to weddings, birthdays to anniversaries, our parish centre offers the perfect space for your most cherished celebrations. Surrounded by faith, love, and community, let us be part of your joyful memories.

🌸 **Book your special event with us today — your parish family is here to welcome you.** 🌸

Education Sunday

This Sunday we celebrate Catholic Education Sunday 2025, giving thanks for all the schools around St. Joseph's Church. We warmly greet every child, teacher, and parent with blessings on this special day. St. Joseph's Primary will joyfully lead our 10am Service on Sunday, 14th September. Happy Education Sunday!



We are profoundly grateful for your generous contributions to last weekend's collection, totalling an impressive £1247.69.

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.

A Pastoral Pause



Dear St. Joseph's Family,
I'm taking a brief two-week pause to honour and celebrate my beloved mother on the first anniversary of her passing, and to rejuvenate my spirit with my family. I eagerly look forward to returning refreshed on September 29, ready to continue our journey of faith and embrace the future that God has in store for us.

I am truly grateful for each of you and the ministry we share. It is a profound honour and blessing to be your pastor. During my absence, please note that the parish office will remain open Monday through Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm. Fr. Jenish has kindly agreed to step in and support in my absence.

If you need to reach me, feel free to send me an email. Be well, be blessed, and continue to be a blessing.

With love, Fr. George, CP

Save the Date - **Lectio Divina**
Tue. 7pm-8pm at Red Room
Wed. 10:30am-12 at Bupa

Altar Server Lunch

Dear Parents and Children,

We warmly invite you to consider a wonderful opportunity to take part in our parish life by becoming an Acolyte at St. Joseph's Church. Serving at the altar is a beautiful way to grow in faith, support our priests, and take an active role in our worship. No prior experience is needed—we will provide training and guidance for all.



We are delighted to welcome Valentina Devis, our new Altar Servers' Coordinator, who will help guide and strengthen this special ministry.

In addition, we extend a heartfelt invitation to all Altar Servers, and their families to join us for a joyful Day of Celebration of our beloved Altar Servers on Sunday, 12th October after the 10am Mass in the Red Room. Come together for fellowship, gratitude, and a chance to celebrate the important contribution of our young servers. Children and families are warmly welcome!

ST. JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2025

Save the Date: Saturday, 15th November 2025, from 12pm to 4pm

Join us as we unwrap the magic of the season at the St. Joseph's Christmas Bazaar! With hearts brimming with joy and gratitude, we extend a warm invitation to everyone for a day teeming with festive cheer and community spirit.



Celebrate the Season with Us!

Our beloved Bazaar, brought to life by the inspiring dedication of Abuk, Cheryl, Diana, Roni, Bernard, Fessehayee, and Gerald, promises an enchanting experience for all. Your participation and support will help us craft beautiful holiday memories together.

How You Can Help:

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Friday, 14th November: Lend a hand as we set up stalls and prepare the venue for a magical day.
- Saturday, 15th November: Dive into the festivities by volunteering at various stalls and activities.



Donations Needed:

Your generous contributions are the heart of our event:

- Delicious cakes and mince pies (to be delivered on the day)

- Hampers and quality toys
- Bottles for our Tombola
- Bric-a-brac, jewellery, and accessories
- Plants and kitchenware
- Crafts and raffle items from local businesses.

Please drop off all donations in the sacristy. Your contributions are vital for our event's success!



Exciting Raffle!

Get your raffle tickets from the month of September—just £1 each or £10 for a book of ten. Don't miss the grand draw at the Bazaar featuring fantastic prizes like gift vouchers and luxurious hampers! Your unwavering support and kindness make all the difference. Together, let's make this year's Christmas Bazaar a memorable celebration. All proceeds will lovingly support our cherished church needs.

For more details or to sign up as a volunteer, please connect with our priests or the Bazaar team after every Mass. Mark your calendars and join this joyful occasion! We can't wait to celebrate with you!



St. Joseph's Parish Hall
— Let the Spirit of Christmas Shine Bright!

Mass intentions from 14th September 2025

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

Sat, 13 Sep 2025	07.00 pm	Missa PP, Brian McDonnell	Sick
Sun, 14 Sep 2025	08.00 am	Josephine Huang(Anni)	Intentions
	10.00 am	Una Phelan	Anniversary
	12 noon	Frederick Ntow(Intn) Bernardo Enrique Calero Gonzalez	Anniversary
	07.00 pm	Maggie, Annie & Kathleen O'Brien	Anniversary
Mon, 15 Sep 2025	09.30 am	Dominic Chink, Tadeo Cuong, Maria Tuoi, Maria Nghi, Anna La	Anniversary
	06.30 pm	Frederick Ntow, Michelle Ntow	Intentions
Tues, 16 Sep 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Souls in Purgatory, James Lynch	Lately Dead
Wed, 17 Sep 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Thur, 18 Sep 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Fri, 19 Sep 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Sat, 20 Sep 2025	09.30 pm	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.

2025 Sep 14 SUN: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS F, Nm 21: 4b-9/ Ps 78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/ Phil 2: 6-11/ Jn 3: 13-17, **Mon: Our Lady of Sorrows M**, 1 Tm 2: 1-8/ Ps 28: 2, 7, 8-9/ Optional Sequence Stabat Mater/ Jn 19: 25-27 or Lk 2: 33-35, **Tue: Cornelius, pp, mt, and Cyprian, bp, mt M**, 1 Tm 3: 1-13/ Ps 101: 1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/ Lk 7: 11-17, **Wed: Ordinary Weekday/ Robert Bellarmine, bp, r, dr/ Hildegard of Bingen, ab, dr**, 1 Tm 3: 14-16/ Ps 111: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 7: 31-35, **Thu: 1 Tm 4: 12-16/ Ps 111: 7-8, 9, 10/ Lk 7: 36-50, Fri: Januarius, bp, mt**, 1 Tm 6: 2c-12/ Ps 49: 6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/ Lk 8: 1-3
Sat: Taegon, p, mt, Paul Chong Hasang, ca, mt, & co., mts M, 1 Tm 6: 13-16/ Ps 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5/ Lk 8: 4-15,
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Am 8: 4-7/ Ps 113: 1-2, 4-6, 7-8/ 1 Tm 2: 1-8/ Lk 16: 1-13

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