



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@yahoo.com) Fr. Tiernan (tiernanpc@gmail.com)

**Masses: Sunday:** (7pm Saturday) 8am, 10am, 12noon, 1.30 (Polish), 7pm.

**Holydays:** 6.30pm vigil, 9.30am, 11am, 6.30pm

**Weekdays:** 9.30am, 6.30pm. **Saturday:** 9.30am, 7pm. **Bank Holiday:** 9.30am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday** 10-10.30am, 6.30 -6.45pm

**Weekdays:** immediately after Mass (on request)

## 15th October 2017 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### O Lord Make Haste To Help Us

It seems that everywhere you look nowadays people are playing on their mobile phones. Not a problem as far as I'm concerned, as long as they are looking where they are going, and it's not diverting them from something more important that they should be doing. In fact in the early days of such games – admittedly more on computers than phones – I made the occasional attempt at saving our planet from space invaders. It was a phase that lasted extremely shortly, as I quickly learnt that my fingers – not to mention my brain – were not geared for re-acting quickly enough to what was happening on the screen. "Speed isn't everything" I would console myself, as I watched others fingers flash around the keyboard.

And I had that on good authority! When I was studying Latin, what seems like a million years ago, I was introduced to the phrase "festina lente". As you classical scholars will know, it's got nothing to do with Lent being a special festival. It's generally translated as "make haste slowly" or "more haste, less speed". As with so many of these old sayings there is a lot of wisdom encapsulated within it. (Don't know why that word came to mind – kind of like it – must use it more often!) And as the years have gone by, and the body and mind have slowed down, it's the kind of advice I can comfortably live with!

But I'm aware I'm away out of step. In a world where more speed – be it on the road or of our broadband – is so often the measure of success, taking one's time is generally the less favoured option. I heard of one particularly shocking example of this during the week. According to the top experts apparently a terrorist organisation can radicalise a person in as little as four weeks. At first I thought that sounded impossible, but when it was explained that with 24 hour access to tweeting and such-like, the continuing barrage of personalised propaganda, and the secrecy that is generally involved, it can be very difficult to resist once one has been enticed into the communication.

It brought home to me two considerations. Firstly how important it is to supervise the types of communication our young people, wittingly or otherwise, are getting involved in. Even if it's nothing to do with terrorism, their values and outlook on life can be very quickly influenced in ways we might not find acceptable. And secondly, it does raise a question for all of us who believe in the Christian message of love and peace as to how effectively we spread that message, and how effectively we use the modern means of communication. Jesus's message was radical in his life-time, and indeed is still very much capable of making a radical difference to our present-day world.

Our gospel today is not one to encourage us to feel complacent as to how we respond to the message of Christ. "Those who were invited to my Son's feast proved unworthy" are not the kind of words that we would like to hear applied to ourselves. And of course the 'feast' in question is a reminder of the mass. Like any feast, it's not simply about eating and drinking, but welcome and fellowship. Maybe it is no harm to get reminded from time to time how much of a privilege it is to be invited to share in the table and the fellowship of the Lord. And we shouldn't be slow to share that invitation with others. Godspeed!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** - Theresa Fleetwood, Carlindo Sobral Santos; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Dorothy Handerek (funeral 11.30am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Reception 5.00pm Sunday), Mary Kate Byrne; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – David Stirling, David McKane, Nelly Rodgers, Grace Rogers, Pa Joe Buckley, Shane O'Connor, Mary Faherty, Maria Giovanna deGiulio, Lilian Bates.

### **Confirmation Program:**

All forms for the Confirmation need to be returned by this Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, at the latest. We remind you that this program is solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that application forms will not be accepted unless accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are expected to attend mass each Sunday, and we ask their families to support them by good example.

### **St. Joseph's School Open Mornings:**

St Joseph's Primary School Open Mornings are on this coming Tuesday, 17th October and also after half-term, on Thursday, 16th November. During our open mornings full tours of the school will be available and members of the Senior Leadership Team will welcome prospective parents at 9:15am for Registration and refreshments and will be available to answer any questions after the tours. No need to book, just come along. Should you be unable to attend the open morning, individual tours can be arranged throughout the year by emailing the office with a suggested day and time to [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk).

### **Adoremus Liverpool 2018:**

A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for 7-9 September 2018. The highlight of the weekend will be the gathering of 10,000 pilgrims in the Echo Arena on the Saturday, at which the Cardinal will lead us in Adoration, and he and Bishop Robert Barron are scheduled to speak. There will also be a Theological Symposium on the Friday, and Procession and solemn Masses in the Metropolitan Cathedral on the Sunday. Our Parish has been allocated just **seven** places (which is considerably more than the average parish) which need to be confirmed **immediately**, so anyone who might be interested on any of the days should contact Fr. Pat **as soon as possible**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. More detailed information about the events can be obtained at [www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events).

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,689. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. The CAFOD Harvest Fast exit collection raised £775. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:**

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com).

### **Parish Bazaar – November 25th:**

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 25th of November which, believe it or not, is only six weeks away. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls – thank you to those of you who have contributed already. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl on [felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com). And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the successful social event it always is.

### **Meditation Group:**

The Friday evening Christian Meditation Group has resumed and are now meeting in the monastery at the earlier time of 7.00pm.

### **Special Service for our Parishioners!:**

No, not that kind of Service. But we do appreciate that many people might find themselves in possession of a considerable number of old pound coins, which will cease to be valid currency after this week-end. As a special favour we are happy to lighten your load, and save you the trouble of having to dispose of them elsewhere. Come to think of it, old fivers and tenners also welcome!