



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

## 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A First!!!!

We can't underestimate the importance of the meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill in Havana, Cuba back in February this year. It was as the first between a Pope and a primate of the Russian Orthodox Church. For over 25 years successive popes have desired to visit Russia to help heal the centuries of division between Western Christianity and the largest Orthodox Church. While relations have greatly improved the last decades between the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who is the principal leader of all the 300 million Orthodox worldwide, the Russian Orthodox leaders had steadfastly refused an extended hand from Rome. The reason was the majority of Russian Orthodox bishops opposed any ecumenical endeavours.

However, it is interesting to know that before becoming patriarch, Kirill had met Pope Benedict XVI in 2007, and wrote a preface to the Russian edition of the Pope book - Introduction to Christianity praising him for his theological skill. Kirill then made sure his successor in the post of 'foreign minister' for external Church relations who strengthen ties with Rome to stand together in the face of liberalising trends in areas of morality.

According to Cardinal Koch, who heads the Vatican Council for Promoting Christian Unity, it was the humility of Francis especially in his comments on a flight back from Istanbul when he stressed he was willing to meet the Russian Patriarch WHEREVER and WHENEVER he wanted. It was seen as a courageous act as a path for deepening dialogue. It also happened just prior the historic pan-orthodox Council that has been taking place this last week in Crete.

The Pope has informed us that he and the Patriarch discussed a number of initiatives that they thought were possible to achieve, though they gave no details what they might be. They did make a joint appeal to end conflicts and the persecution of Christians right across the Middle East. They also reiterated their firm belief in the family and marriage as an act of love, freely chosen between a man and a woman, as the foundation of a healthy society. They also stressed the rights of the unborn, the elderly and the sick and they called on young people to be unafraid to live out these Gospel values in their lives.

It has turned out a sad and disappointing reality that Pan-Orthodox Council has not managed to achieve some 50 years of preparations hope for. It was hoped that the 14 primates of the Orthodox national Churches (autocephalous) and some 50 Orthodox scholars had hoped they could commence a new phase of Orthodox witness to the world and to form a conciliar unity among themselves. However three groups decided not to attend. The Georgian, the Antiochian and Serbian Churches said they would not attend. Then the Moscow Patriarchate said the meeting could not go ahead without them. Well, the Principal Patriarch of Constantinople decided to go ahead anyway. Sadly Moscow then also withdrew. We will wait and see what will come out of the Council. It probably will not have the same impact it might have had if all attended. Perhaps in the future they will eventually achieve their goal. In the meantime we should pray for our Orthodox brothers and sisters that they can respond to the Gospel challenges of today from their rich tradition and spirituality.

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish; we pray for those who have died recently** – Patrick Pike (funeral 11.15am Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June), Martin Mulvee (funeral 1.00pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July) Joan Connell, Elizabeth Rooney (Lizzie Lyons); **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Anne & Mary Barulis, Patrick, Gladys & Raymond Hogan, James & Margaret Driscoll, John Driscoll, Sheila Conolly;

### **Feast of SS Peter & Paul:**

Wednesday this week is the Feast of SS Peter & Paul, and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be at 6.30pm Vigil on Tuesday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Wednesday.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,510. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. As the Feast of St. Peter & Paul falls during the week, we will have the annual Peter's Pence collection for Papal charities after all Masses this weekend.

### **Mary's Meals:**

Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. They feed children one good meal every day at schools in over 12 countries. In part this funded by collecting second-hand clothing for resale. Amazingly 3 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year!

Next weekend Mary's Meals will be coming to St. Joseph's to take away your unwanted clothing and bedding (*but not duvets or pillows please*). During the week we ask you to collect your unwanted clothes and put them in tied sacks. Then **before 12 noon next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** bring them with you when you come to Mass. Not only will you be getting rid of unwanted clothes/bedding and giving yourself a little more space but you will also benefit a really worthwhile charity.

### **100 Club:**

The June draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **APF Red Boxes:**

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes who have not recently returned them please bring them in next Sunday (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so we can count them all together. If you completed a Gift Aid form please remember to fill in your details on the bottom of the box so that your donation can be identified.

### **Pilgrimage to Walsingham:**

This year, to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese have organised a pilgrimage to Walsingham on the 9th of July. As there is a limit on the number of coaches the place can cater for, it has been agreed that St. Gabriel's Parish, Archway, and ourselves will just have the one coach between us. The coach will depart from St. Gabriel's church premises at 7am to arrive at Walsingham at 10am. The cost is £18.00. For further information please contact St. Gabriel's Parish office on 02072728195 or Mary Aherne - 02072639217.

### **Children's Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> August), near Colchester in Essex. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

### **The Big Mile:**

A one mile fundraising walk in support of Caritas Westminster and the St. Vincent dePaul Society (SVP) this Sunday afternoon, 26<sup>th</sup> June. The walk starts at 3.00pm from Westminster Cathedral and ends at the Houses of Parliament, then we will walk back to the Cathedral where refreshments will be available. There is a registration fee of £5 for adults and £1 for children and the unwaged. The money raised will go towards helping the SVP meet the needs of rough sleepers through the Vinnie Packs scheme and assist Caritas Westminster in their work with Deaf and hard of hearing people, people with learning disabilities, and women escaping human trafficking. Register at [www.bigmile.org.uk](http://www.bigmile.org.uk).

### **Tyburn Convent:**

Monastic Afternoon at Tyburn Convent. Come and meet the Tyburn Nuns, find out what they do, and hear the story of the great Tyburn Martyrs. First Sunday of every month, 2 - 5.00pm. The next one is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place (on Bayswater Rd.) Tel: 020 7723 7262

### **Catholic Grandparents:**

A Catholic Grandparents group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month 4.30-5.30pm in the Hinsley Room at Westminster Cathedral (access via Morpeth Terrace).