



YOU  
ARE MY  
TREASURE

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ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 July 26

# YOU ARE MY TREASURE

To young minority doctors,  
he was “our Jay-Z.”

Dr. James Mahoney — “Charlie,” as he was known — was the heart and soul of University Hospital, a chronically underfunded state-run institution that primarily serves Brooklyn, New York's poor, minority communities. Charlie Mahoney started as a student at the hospital's teaching college in 1982 and never left. He rose to become a pulmonary and critical care physician and a professor at the college.

Dr. Mahoney was a large, intimidating man — but his calm resolve, ready smile and quickness with a joke and an encouraging word immediately put patients and students at ease. He had no use for the protocols of the medical hierarchy: he preferred having lunch with his nurses and assistants; he treated the housekeepers with the same respect as he treated the hospital CEO.

Residents, typically fearful of approaching senior physicians with rookie questions, had no problems coming to Dr. Mahoney.

The same was true of his patients. He readily gave out his pager and cellphone numbers. For those too sick to come to the hospital for routine checkups, Dr. Mahoney made house calls. His assistant remembers: “Not only did he heal people's bodies, he healed their minds and souls.”

Unfailingly kind and soft-spoken, Dr. Mahoney was assertive when he saw injustice — which, like many physicians of color, he experienced throughout his career.

After 40 years as a physician, Dr. Mahoney could have retired. He had been on the front lines for AIDS, the crack epidemic, 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. His family and friends urged him to take a break from this one.

But that's not who Dr. Mahoney was. A colleague recalls how Charlie would run from crashing patient to crashing patient, always at the bedside — where it was most dangerous. “There were people who were really reluctant to go into the rooms, and you could understand why [but] he saw another human being in need, and didn't hesitate to help.”



Dr. Mahoney belonged on the floor and that's where he would stay, always on duty, always teaching, seldom sleeping. Until the end: April 27, when the 62-year-old physician died of the disease he had fought so hard.

For the staff at University Hospital, Dr. Mahoney's death was shattering. For students, especially black students, he was a legend. One minority physician who studied under Dr. Mahoney said: "As a young black man, I looked at this guy and said to myself, 'Twenty years from now, I want to be like him.' When a black resident sees him, he sees a hero. Someone that you can be one day. He's our Jay-Z."

[The New York Times, May 18, 2020,  
People.com, May 19, 2020; The Guardian,  
May 12, 2020.]

**T**he Parables in the gospel for today reminds us that God “hides the kingdom of heaven not in any of the extraordinary places that treasure hunters would be sure to check but in the last place that any of us would think to look, namely, in the ordinary circumstances of our everyday lives...” Yes, the “signs of the kingdom of heaven and clues to all the holiness are hidden in the (darkness) and dullness of our (pandemic) days....” What higher praise can a student doctor say about one of his or her professors: “I want to be just like him.” During this pandemic God has raised up thousands of saints like Dr. James Mahoney, whose selfless generosity is the “pearl of great price,” whose “treasure” was the care and hope they could provide to the sick and dying. Their courage and generosity should inspire us to realize that the Gospel “treasure” and “pearl” exist within each one of us: that ability to see God in those we love and are able to serve, that spirit of compassion that enables us to be the means of God's mercy and peace using whatever our skill set, in whatever our work place. **The search for the Gospel pearl and treasure is a life-long search — but guided by the light of God's wisdom and the markers of God's grace, we will become what we seek.**

# BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT MASS



**D**ue to the current Covid-19 pandemic, we are asking you to book places for each Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass, starting with this coming weekend. This is in line with other diocesan parishes, and is intended to ensure that the Parish team can safely manage the number of worshippers at each weekend Mass and to comply with government track and trace requirements. Bookings will not be necessary for weekday Masses.

Booking a place is easy!

**Please click on the following link and choose a Mass time:**

**[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate  
/events/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/)**

A link is also available via the parish website.

Please book a place for each person (including children) in attendance even if you are all from the same family. The booking system only requires your name and telephone number. This is to ensure accurate tracking and minimising any potential outbreak, should someone be diagnosed with the virus. Our stewards will have a list of attendees for each Mass, so there is no need for you to print or screenshot your booking. Just make the booking and then come to Mass!

We understand that using a booking system is unusual, and is certainly not consistent with our Church being always open to all. We very much hope that bookings are only necessary for a short while. For those without online access, we will be setting aside a number of seats, but we will be taking the names and phone numbers of all attendees without a booking.

**Face Coverings:** In accordance with government and diocesan guidelines, we strongly encourage you to wear a face covering/mask in church.

In all of this, we ask for your understanding and cooperation so that everyone is safe.

*Task force for Parish Reopening*



## 100 Club Results

The delayed March Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 120 and the winners were: **£400 M.T.Harrington (72), £100 Theresa Nyandoro (37), £50 Paula Waldron (162)**. We will be catching up over the coming weeks with the outstanding draws which have not been held during lockdown.

### Christian Stewardship

Last week's collection amounted to **£690**. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you very much for your continued generosity in support of your Parish.

*Thank  
you!*

# GIVE



ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION  
IS SUSTAINED BY THE  
**GRACE OF GOD**  
AND THE FAITHFULNESS OF  
PEOPLE LIKE  
**YOU.**

**We are here because of  
your generosity.**

**Yes, we need your support.**

We give because God first gave to us. When we give to what God cares about, we share in the work of building God's Kingdom. When we give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love.

If Christ is truly the centre of our lives, then giving to the church should be an outward reflection of an inward change, signifying that Christ is first in our lives.

We prayerfully invite you to use E-Giving through **Gift Aid** and **Standing Orders** to set up a recurring donation or make a one time gift.

It is a way to express gratitude and beautiful way to say thank you.

Please visit our website and the portal '**Donate to Our Parish**' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.

[www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

# P R A Y

+ Eleanor Teresa Frost  
+ Michael Kennedy  
+ William Gerard Kirby  
+ Catherine Byrne  
+ Jo Tuckman



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