



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto:gaskoloth@hotmail.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)

## 27th October 2019 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### O God, Be Merciful To Me!

It would be very remiss of me not to congratulate the supporters of the English rugby team on their wonderful achievement on reaching the World Cup final. I do hope they will appreciate the part played by Ireland in their success. Wasn't it the Irish who tired the New Zealanders out last week by letting them have possession all the time, and thus making them think they were world-beaters, which presumably seduced them into a false sense of superiority and security, leaving them ready for the taking by England. (After all, we do live in the age of 'spin' – and why should the politicians have all the fun!)

But moving on to more relevant matters – I was reading during the week about the Cathedral in Vienna, in Austria. (Some very strange articles and books cross my desk!) It is called the Stephansdom, or the Cathedral of St. Stephan. I know nothing about architecture, but it's an extraordinary mixture of styles, that from the photos I've seen I'm not really sure works. But it wasn't its architecture that caught my attention – but an interesting account of an ancient tradition associated with it.

For centuries, the emperors of Austria would come to this Cathedral to be installed as ruler. They followed a particular ritual for their coronations. When the one to ascend the throne would come to the Church, he would find the doors locked. He, then, called a church official and said, "I, the Emperor Franz Joseph of all Austria-Hungary, demand admittance." The church official would then reply, "We do not know the emperor of all Austria-Hungary. Who is it that demands admittance?"

Then the emperor would say, "I, Franz Joseph, demand admittance." The church official would again respond, "We do not know Franz Joseph. Who is it that demands admittance?" Then the emperor would say in a subdued voice, "I, a sinner, request admittance." It was only then that the doors would be unlocked and the new emperor could enter and be welcomed with the words, "Permission is granted. Enter, sinner, Thou art known to us."

The new emperor got nowhere as long as he demanded from his position of arrogance and power. It was only in his admittance of his sameness with all other people of his empire, that he was a sinner, would he be admitted into the Cathedral to become the leader of the other sinners in the empire.

Our Gospel today tells us about two men. One is arrogant enough to pray to God thanking Him that he was not like other men. The other man simply prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The Church, our church, is a group of people who freely admit that we are sinners. There is no one among us who is perfect. If there could be such a person, he or she would feel out of place among us.

When we begin to celebrate our community worship in the Mass, we always start by praying, "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. These are not just words we say. They express the humble belief that we all need the mercy of God in our lives, both as an individual and as a community. This does not mean that we are bad people. Good people are also sinners, but, because of it, they constantly cry out in truth, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." (I'm sure he'll forgive the first paragraph!)

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**We pray for those who have died recently** – Joseph Langan, Michael Bolger, Kerrie Browne, Patrick Kelly;  
**we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – May Groarke, Matt Faherty, Ralph Crisp, Dorothy Handerek, Teresa Hartford, Mick Faherty.

### **All Saints Day:**

Friday this week is the Feast of All Saints and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be: 6.30pm Vigil on Thursday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Friday.

### **Coffee Morning:**

Our next coffee morning will take place after the 10am mass on Sunday 3rd November, in the Red Room. Why not come along and enjoy a few moments with your fellow-parishioners?

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,500. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

### **St. Joseph's School – spaces for 3 year-olds:**

We are very blessed as a Parish to have a truly wonderful Primary and Nursery School linked to our Parish. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has an individual identity that combines traditional values with a modern vibrant vision. The school is an Ofsted and Diocesan rated 'Outstanding' school, with an ethos based on faith, community and a true partnership between home, school, and Parish. St Joseph's is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support them in their faith development. We currently have spaces in our Little Gems Nursery Class for children who have just turned 3. If you are interested in your child joining our Little Gems Nursery Class now or later on this academic year please pick up an application form at the back of the church or from the school office. [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk). You are also more than welcome to come along to our open day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 9:15am, no need to book just come along.

### **November Dead List:**

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are now available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

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

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd November. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2020 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms can be obtained by emailing [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Parish Bazaar – November 16th:**

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 16th of November just **three weeks away**. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. 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, [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 enjoyable social event it always is.

### **Caritas Food Collective: Volunteers needed:**

The Caritas Food Collective is a new project focused on tackling food poverty across the diocese. They are looking for volunteers to help for one day in one of seven locations in the diocese. Their first goal is to create holiday clubs to help children and families access nutritious, healthy food and enjoy fun activities during school holidays. The pilot will take place during the October half-term. Roles include catering, running children's activities, delivery driving and administration. Full training will be provided. To find out more please contact [cfc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cfc@rcdow.org.uk) / 020 7931 6077. Or visit [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/search-for-volunteering-opportunities.php](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/search-for-volunteering-opportunities.php).

### **Ceili for Alzheimer's:**

There will be a fundraising Ceili in support of the Alzheimer's Society in St. Joseph's Parish Centre on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, doors open at 8.00pm.

### **The Passage – A Night Under the Stars:**

The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 5 November on the theme Magic of Italian Opera. The music includes Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and Nessun Dorma with soloists Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Clare Presland and Simon Thorpe. For more details call 020 7592 1856 or email [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk)