



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)

17th December 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Broken For The Broken

I was born in a picturesque island village in Kerala, S. India. I had four sisters and two brothers, and I was the youngest of them all. We were poor but my parents were very loving and hard working. My father was a stone-mason and my mother a housewife. To have four girls in a family was really a financial burden in our 'dowry infected society'. And now by God's grace and by the hard work of my parents all my brothers and sisters are married and settled.

As for myself at the age of fifteen I joined the seminary to become a priest. And after almost thirteen years of long studies became a Passionist priest in 1998. Finding my abilities of good speaking and of getting along with the young people, I was appointed as the director of vocation ministries. And I did fairly well in that area. The hard work and futility we experience today in the field of vocation ministry enabled me to dwell more upon the mystery of my own vocation. During the same time I was pulled out of myself to work among the sex



workers and prisoners. And that wonderful ministry opened up a whole new horizon for me. I got in touch with many terminally ill persons like AIDS patients and cancer patients. And these wonderful ministries with the 'broken' enabled me to get in touch with my own brokenness. And it underlined my own belief that 'I am the broken for the broken.'

"Where ever there is a human being; there is an opportunity for kindness." This is the first lesson I learnt from my home. And that moulded and carried me all along.

My parents by their life and example urged me 'to love until it hurts'. My initial education in Moslem school challenged me to become all the more compassionate. My ministry in the poor and remote parishes of India helped me to become compassionate as my Master. And thus my faith life as a Passionist priest was formed, informed, shared, and sustained in a greater way. And that is why I hold that prayer close to my heart always as the most intimate and favourite of all prayers: 'Kyrie Eleison – Lord Have Mercy.'

SHARING STORIES:

My worship would tell where I am coming from! And that is the beauty of worship. It is all about sharing our stories. That is what brought me here among you. I express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to be a part of your stories. "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." Phil 1:3.

Fr. George

-----00000OOO00000-----

We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Clive Nero; we pray for those who have died recently - Patricia Hind (funeral 12.30pm Wednesday 20th December), Lena Rozario-Martin (funeral 11.45am Thursday 28th December), Bridie Thompson (funeral 1.00pm Friday 5th January), Mary Brigid McGovern; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Joan Coupland, Ermias Mahari, Ethelreda Carlisle, Alan Slow, Sheila McCormack, Raymond Hogan.

Advent, Christmas, New Year Schedule:

The detailed list of events is available in the porch. Here's a summary of the principle services.

Sunday, 24th Christmas eve: Sunday morning Masses at the normal times, but no 7pm Sunday evening Mass.
5.30pm – Children/Family Christmas Mass – children are encouraged to come dressed as angels or shepherds, and to bring their singing voices;
12 midnight – Mass, preceded by carol singing from 11.30.

Monday, Christmas Day – morning Masses only – at 8, 10 and 12. **No evening mass.**

Tuesday 26th Bank Holiday, Mass at 9.30am only. **No evening mass.**

Giving Tree:

Thanks to all the people who have gone to such trouble to already leave in their gifts. For those of you who may be new to the parish, or haven't come across this exercise before, the idea is very simple, and very much in the proper spirit of Christmas. Instead of the usual decorations our trees are bedecked with lots of tags, on each of which has been written a suggestion for a Christmas gift to be given to the poor of our city – local families that our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul are in touch with, and also for the Cardinal Hume Centre, which does outstanding work with families in distress and with the homeless. We invite you, if you haven't already done so, to take a tag from the tree, and then during this coming week to purchase the item suggested. Items, which should be gift-wrapped should then be brought to the church **no later than this coming Thursday, 21st December**, with the tags stating what gift is in each parcel attached to them. (Don't worry, the tags will be removed before being given to any individual.) Many of the items on the tags are of a practical nature, like warm socks, gloves and so on, but there are also suggestions for small non-essentials, like biscuits, toys, books, games, etc – items which for us we're inclined to take for granted, but for others are a luxury that they could never afford to buy for themselves. We particularly invite you to encourage your children to become involved. It's a very practical way to help them appreciate how lucky they are, and maybe spend a little of their own pocket money on a present for a child of their own age who is much less well-off.

Living Crib:

The local road and footpath conditions didn't help, but thanks to all who went to great pains to be involved in the Living Crib last Sunday. Your effort and dedication was much appreciated. And you truly earned and deserved the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!

A Highgate Christmas: an Advent Evening of Readings and Carols:

Join us this Monday 18th December at 7.30pm for a flavour of Christmas given by extracts and poems from some of the great writers associated with Highgate, as well as readings from Holy Scripture and beautiful music from our own choir, and our organist Alberto Brigandi. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

Christian Meditation:

The Meditation group won't be meeting over the Christmas period. Their next meeting will be on Friday 12th January.

100 Club:

The December 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £801. (You may remember many people couldn't get here because of the treacherous condition of the roads and footpaths around.) In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Cake Sale This Sunday:

Much work has already gone into preparing for the setting up of a new playgroup – Bright Stars – based in the Parish Centre, for early in the New Year. To help with the initial funding and set-up costs, a cake sale will be held after the 10 o'clock mass today. Cake donations will be greatly appreciated by Lucy and Martina, who are setting up the playgroup. For further information their contact details are as follows: Lucy – 07798 797 390 lucymaryjackson@gmail.com ; Martina - 07474 734278 m.gerngross@gmx.net

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and 2018 Calendars, St. Joseph's Parish Diaries and the new Westminster Year Book are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.