



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

## 12th November 2017 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Remembrance Sunday

Considering how challenged I am in the memory department, I suppose you could say it is somewhat ironic that I should be writing about Remembrance Sunday. But even for me there are some things, and even more importantly, people whom I could never forget. In the front line, as it were, would be my immediate and extended family, and then some very special friends. But of course all that personal remembrance is the stuff of November, and our praying for the Holy Souls. Remembrance Sunday has, one might say, a different flavour. At this time we remember all the many people that we do not know, but who have given their lives that all of us might live in a more peaceful world.

I had just written that last sentence when I got an uneasy feeling that I might not have it quite accurately, so I consulted the modern-day “know-all” – Wikipedia. There I read *Remembrance Sunday is held in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations as a day "to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts". It is held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11 November, Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War at 11 a.m. in 1918.* There were oodles of other interesting facts, but I will let you have the fun of researching them for yourself. So, I was right to be uneasy, because I had got it wrong, at least if the part in quotation marks is to be taken as gospel – and it comes from no lesser a source than the Department of Culture Media and Sport. You will have noticed the difference – there is no mention of dying, but of the contribution of servicemen and women.

And that's a very important distinction, not only for Remembrance Sunday, but for many other aspects of our lives. Yes, the ultimate sacrifice is dying for the cause, but we should never underestimate the importance of living for the cause – whatever that cause may be. And as Christians that cause is above all about spreading the message of Christ – a message of peace and love for all the world. Remembrance Sunday is but one day, and it is important to properly remember and appreciate those service men and women who have contributed so sacrificially. But we show our appreciation above all by working every day for the peace that they hoped for, not just in the world in general, but in our homes, our neighbourhood, and our country.

Our gospel today might superficially look like a very poor example of neighbourliness – the wise virgins refusing to share with the foolish – but is another example of how short-term good can very often be the enemy of long-term better. To have shared their oil might have given them a nice feeling of doing good, but if it led to failure to be there for the master they had committed to serving, then they clearly would have had their priorities wrong. And serving God, through serving others, is our top priority.

Oh, I almost forgot – I didn't really, but I wanted to keep it to the end. I'm very pleased to be able to let you know that we have a new member in our Passionist community here in St. Joseph's. Fr. Thomas has just arrived from India, thus extending the international flavour of our community. He has only just arrived, so I thought it was better to give him a little time to settle in before maybe asking him next week to give us a little introduction to himself in the bulletin. In the meantime, I'm sure on all our behalves, I want to extend a very sincere welcome to him and to wish him every happiness during his time in Highgate. Céad Míle Fáilte!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** - Clive Nero, Oliver Columb; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Mary Healy (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November), Eileen Hickey, Robbie McDonald, Michael Jacoby, Margaret Larkin, Mary Healy (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Tanoo Mylvaganam, John O'Brien, Hannah Lucitt, Phil O'Keefe, Winnie Flynn, Josephine Dyne-Scott.

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

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 25th of November, now only **TWO** 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. and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall. Thanks to the many of you who have contributed already. \*\*\* **New this year – BBNWT:** Is your wardrobe full of clothes and shoes you have bought but never worn and still have their tags on? If so please consider donating them to our bazaar for our **Bought But Not Worn with Tags** stall! Please bring your goods for stalls **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so that we can start sorting (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). 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, whose email address is 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.

### **Grand Raffle:**

Whether you can manage to come to the Bazaar or not, you can still support us by buying tickets for the Raffle - the tickets are now on sale at only £1 each for the Grand Raffle which will be held on the day.

### **Coffee Morning This Sunday:**

We're having our Parish Coffee Morning this Sunday, 5th November, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00 am. Mass. This is a good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish. All are welcome to relax for a while in the Red Room and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

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

St Joseph's Primary School will be holding another Open Morning this Thursday, 16th November. During our open morning 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).

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,502. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

### **Church Cleaning Fest:**

Following the success (socially as well as practically) of our previous Cleaning Parties there will be another church cleaning session on Saturday, 2nd December from 11.am to 2.00pm. If you are free for any part of that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way, please sign up on the volunteering list that will be in the porch or email [roxane.stirling@bopenworld.com](mailto:roxane.stirling@bopenworld.com) We don't normally have these parties on Saturdays, but we've had a torrent of complaints from people who miss out on Roxane's delicious cakes!

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

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, is starting this Wednesday, November 15th. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings in the Red Room at 7.15 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com) .

### **Diary Updates - Christmas Events:**

We have our other usual Christmas events approaching very rapidly, so make sure you note them in your diary. The **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm, - any stray angels, shepherds or wise men (or even wise women!) always welcome! And our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

### **Some Technical Issues – Help Appreciated:**

Apologies for the issues with sound in the church that we have been having lately. We have had a technician out during the week, and hopefully the problems are solved. We are also having problems with our security cameras, and if we have anyone in the parish with expertise in either or both of these areas their advice would be greatly appreciated.

### **Christmas at the Repository:**

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2018 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries 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.