



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@yahoo.com) Fr. George (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)

22nd April 2018 – 4th Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

Most of the sport of my youth was team-oriented. And generally, being a member of a team meant that you knew exactly what was expected of you. So if you were playing football – ‘soccer’ to us – there were eleven clearly defined positions on the pitch. You might be ‘right half’, or ‘outside left’, which meant you knew exactly what area of the pitch you were supposed to be covering, and which member of the opposing team you were supposed to be marking. That was pretty much the sum total of the ‘tactics’ involved. This of course was before the days of your 4-4-2’s and 3-2-4-1’s and so on, with attacking wing-backs and defensive mid-fielders, and zonal marking. Not surprising that you have to go to academies now to learn football!

What’s all this got to do with the price of tea in China, you might ask? Well, I was just thinking in relation to our readings this Sunday, that in a similar way to being a member of a football team, our membership of the church has changed equally dramatically. My family were a bit unusual in that we were involved in our Parish – my mother was one of the ‘prefects’ of the Women’s Sodality, which meant she kept the roll-book of who turned up for meetings. And I was an altar-boy – no ‘servers’ in those days! As I say, we were unusual. None of my friends, or their families were involved other than by attending mass on Sundays. And there was no pressure or expectation that they be otherwise. Being an ‘active’ member of one’s parish was very much a minority sport.

Of course, all that has changed nowadays. Just looking at our own parish – we’ve got many people involved as Eucharistic ministers, readers, collectors, servers, choir members, church cleaners, flower arrangers, catechists for First Communion or Confirmation, counters, parish counsellors, and so on – and if you’re feeling just a little guilty that you’re not more actively involved, that’s no harm; it might inspire you to offer your services!

This Sunday, because of the Gospel readings normally chosen for the 4th Sunday of Easter, is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also designated as the “World Day of Prayer for Vocations”. And that is primarily referring to vocations to the priesthood and religious life, which, let’s face it, is not a topic that immediately grabs everyone’s attention! Nevertheless, it is an important subject for the modern-day church. Just as it is wonderful and right to see so many members of the church becoming actively involved, so is it important that the various roles are valued as contributing to the health of the whole body. If we were to ask for more volunteer involvement in the parish, and found that 200 people volunteered to be counters, and we had no readers, that wouldn’t be very helpful to the overall health of the parish.

There is no doubt that the changes that have come about since the Vatican Council – the making of our celebrations more accessible; the active involvement of so many people in the life of parishes; the wonderful ‘down-to-earthness’ of Pope Francis – have been a great blessing for the modern-day church. It is a church no less committed to spreading the message of Christ in our world. It is a church very aware that its mission is not going to be completed in this generation – but must look to future generations to carry it on. It won’t do that without good leadership – more people prepared to be the Good Shepherds (and shepherdesses?) of the future. That’s our prayer this week-end.

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We pray for the sick of our parish – Anthony Boyle; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Aliemar Eccles (funeral 1.30pm Friday 27th April), Anthony Miles (funeral 2.00pm Tuesday 1st May), John Bromfield (funeral 1.00pm Thursday 3rd May, reception 4.30pm Wednesday), Michael Tyrrell; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Jos Byrne, Maisie Murray, Anne Gorman, Carmel Temple, Anne Marie Dermody.

Fr. Christopher:

We're happy to say that Fr. Christopher's condition has improved somewhat during this past week. At time of writing he is still in the Whittington, but the expectation is that he will be moving from there shortly. Your prayers for his continued improvement are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Planned Giving Boxes:

Our financial year ended in the middle of Easter Week. It has made for difficulties in distributing the planned giving envelopes boxes for 2018-19. Many have already done so, but if you haven't, they are still available through the Parish Office, or by contacting one of the priests of the Parish. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please let the Parish office - know, and you will be assigned a box number.

Do You Gift-Aid?

The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by Gift-Aiding it – if you are a tax-payer. The Parish learns nothing about your private financial affairs. The average weekly collection, between plate and standing orders, is approximately £2400 a week. If only half of that was Gift-Aided, it would mean an extra £300 a week, or £15,600 a year, to Parish funds. Forms are available from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,705. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

Mission Appeal:

There will be an appeal at all Masses next weekend on behalf of the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph.

Confirmation Group:

There will be a post-Confirmation celebration at 5.00 pm on Sunday April 29th. Please email Cheryl at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com for details and to confirm attendance. Confirmation Certificates will be available at this celebration.

100 Club:

The April 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.

Concert for Mind:

There will be a Fundraising concert in aid of the mental health charity, Mind, here in St. Joseph's Church on next Saturday 28th April, at 8.15pm. It will feature operatic and sacred classics by Mozart, Verdi, Vivaldi and others. Tickets £15 (£10 conc.) at the door.

Eucharistic Congress:

The bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool in 7-9 September 2018. The Echo Arena in Liverpool will be the home to a six-hour stage programme on the 8th September including a Congress Mass, speakers Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with Adoration. For more information and to enquire about tickets, please contact adoremus@rcdow.org.uk or call 07738183829.

Pilgrimage to Knock:

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 14th May 2018. £599 per person sharing. Price includes flights, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with Breakfast Dinner each day. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. See poster in porch. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

This annual event will be taking place this year in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating one of those anniversaries, please give Fr. Pat the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Bright Stars Stay and Play:

The St Joseph's Parish Bright Stars Stay and Play for 0-5 year olds is now back during the school term. It will run on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00am in the parish centre. Lots of fun activities for 0-5 year olds. If you would like more information then please contact: stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com