



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. 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)

13th May 2018 – 7th Sunday of Easter

MOBILE SECURITY BLANKETS!

I've had occasion in the past in the Bulletin to mention the subject of mobile phones, and, from time to time, the subject of shopping. I might be tempted occasionally to refer to both of them as being examples of necessary evils, but in reality I do realise that that would be a little too harsh. Of course we have to go shopping from time to time, or else we would need to be growing all our food in the back garden, not to mention keeping a hen or two for the eggs, and a cow for the milk, etc. – not really on in this day and age. Mind you, things have been much simplified by the new world of internet shopping – I think!

And I do honestly appreciate the convenience of the mobile phone, particularly, say, for parents and children who wish to make contact for 'pick-ups' and that kind of thing. In fact I remember on one occasion making the mistake myself of not having my mobile with me as I was calling on some people. I arrived at the door of their apartment block, expecting to see their names on one of the call bells, to find that instead I really needed their code, which, or course, they had forgotten to give me. I ended up having to return to St. Joseph's, which, fortunately, was not too far, to get the mobile to ring them. I'm really hoping there isn't a panel of buttons at the pearly gates!

At this stage you may be saying, "get on with it – what's the connection between mobile phones and going shopping?" Well, there are lots, of course. But I'm not referring to those people who are kneeling down looking at some items on the bottom shelf and I just manage not to trip over in the aisle as they are ringing home to check whether it's a big packet or small packet that's required, or "they're all out of this brand, should I get the other?" No, my story has a little more charm than that.

It features a lovely, I won't say elderly – but getting on a bit – couple I know, who occasionally go into the city for some leisurely strolling/shopping together. And you know the way it happens – they're strolling along, she spots something in a window, and stops to look. In the meantime he's still walking on, unaware she's not beside him – his attention's probably been caught momentarily by the Church on the other side of the street, or some such! As he turns to draw her attention to it, he suddenly realises he's on his own. It's OK if she's still looking into the shop window, but if she's gone inside, suddenly he's no idea where she's got to. But no panic – they have come prepared – it's obviously not the first time it's happened! They both carry mobile phones for just such occasions. Out comes the mobile – "where are you, darling?" - and in no time at all they are happily reunited!

Now, isn't that a nice use of modern technology? And it comes into my mind this Sunday as I read our Gospel – which is a passage in which Jesus is praying to His Father for those He is leaving behind in this world. That while they are in the world – though not controlled by simply worldly values – they must live the best they can in the situations in which they find themselves. He is inviting us to be realists – we can't pretend we don't live on this planet. Much as we might like to at times, we can't withdraw from the real world. He prays that we will remain true to Him, and be 'consecrated in the truth'. And one of the challenges for us is to find creative ways to use of the various modern means the world gives us to bring us closer, in love, to one another, and to Him.

Now, where's Fr. George? He was beside me a moment ago!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Mamie Bourke, Pat McAndrew, Noel Ballantyne, Jean Willis;
we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Gerald Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, Dr Gertrude (Duda) Collie, Mary Douglas, Yvonne Emery (Cooke), Florence Tharby, George Flynn.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch on next Sunday, 20th May, at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, (summer will be here by then!) spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is our second year to celebrate Pentecost in this way. Our celebration is designed to encourage people to build up a real sense of community in our Parish, by getting to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. If you were one of the lucky ones who managed to be here for the celebration last year you will remember what a wonderful success it was, and what an amazing variety of food was contributed. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country of origin, and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

Fr. Christopher:

Just to keep you up-to-date with his present condition - Fr. Christopher has been discharged from the Whittington hospital and has transferred to the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead. He continues to make good progress, and is in good spirits but is still rather weak and is having significant difficulties in eating. (Despite that, we were very pleased to have him with us for lunch last Sunday!) The hope is that with the high level of care which the hospice can provide he will improve in strength and be able to return to Nazareth House. Please keep him in your prayers. Thank you.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,605. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity.

Sistine Chapel Choir at Westminster Cathedral:

The Sistine Chapel Choir, Holy Father's personal choir, performs a sacred choral music concert from the repertoire they sing in the Vatican on Saturday 26th May 2018 at 8pm in Westminster Cathedral. The concert will last an hour, and is free of charge (no tickets required). Come and experience this world-famous choir singing in the beautiful setting of Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome.

An Invitation to Young Adults from the Cardinal:

The Cardinal invites young adults, aged 18 to 30, to join him at Archbishop's House for three meetings (15th May, 29th May, 19th June, all at 6.30pm) to explore the theme of vocation, with an opportunity for prayer, input, discussion and question and answer. The first meeting is this coming Tuesday but all are welcome to attend whichever meetings they are able. More details can be found on the youth section of the diocesan website (www.dowym.com). If you would like to come along, please let us know by sending a quick email to youth@rcdow.org.uk.

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.

APF Red Boxes:

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes please bring them in next Sunday (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so that they can all be counted together. Please remember to fill in your details on the bottom of the box so that your donation can be identified. Please ask for a new box, available from the Sacristy.

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

Various Updates (in case you missed them last week!):

The work on the dome of the church is finished – but some work continues on damaged slates. Much of the expense will be covered by insurance, so there won't be too great a hole in the parish finances. In the meantime the work on replacing the closers on the inner doors in the porch is now completed. And finally, you may have noticed that we have a totally new sound system installed. There are one or two little glitches to be sorted, but they should be dealt with quickly. Now for the painting of the porch, sorting the seating, cleaning the ceiling, restoring the sanctuary – never a dull moment!