



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)

29th October 2017 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All You Need Is Love

The day the school was closing for half term I needed to go down there to meet with somebody. As I was passing down in the area of the community centre I was rather surprised to see that there were crowds of parents and children queueing up to get into the centre. As I looked closer I realised that the children were for the most part not in school uniform, but dressed rather as all kinds of weird and wonderful creatures. Although by my calendar it seemed a bit early it turned out they were having a Halloween something – I say ‘something’ because my instinct is to say surely it wasn’t a dance – considering some of the children were only 4 year-olds – but there was disco music coming from the hall, so I guess it must have been a knees-up for four to six year-olds! How the world has changed!

Halloween was a much more low-key affair when I was young. Early in the evening some of the children would dress up and go from door to door, within a very limited area, and be given a greeting of “Oh, don’t you look scary” and some sweets or fruit. And the later part of the evening would be spent playing such exciting games as trying to get a bite out of an apple hanging by a piece of string from the ceiling, or trying to get a bite from an apple that was under six inches of water in a basin. Never had to worry about the batteries running out! And then there was the special Halloween food – colcannon, and barm brack. Normally during the year if you found any foreign bodies in your food you felt entitled to complain, but at Halloween you expected to find all kinds of things – rings, sticks, rags, thimbles, peas, etc. Don’t ask me to explain their significance – I’ve long forgotten them even if I ever knew them.

I simply mention this because in the coming week we have two traditional celebrations – Halloween and All Souls Day. Although All Souls Day wasn’t a holy day as far as I remember, it did have its traditions – particularly related to get souls out of Purgatory. I don’t mean any disrespect to those of us who did it, but it must have looked very strange to non-Catholics to see crowds of people around churches going in and out the doors, like they couldn’t make up their minds whether they were coming or going – because we could only rescue one soul per visit! There were lots of positive values in such customs, but they really do now belong to a different world and a different time.

Which is one of the reasons why I particularly like this Sunday’s gospel. It’s that passage where again they are trying to catch Jesus out with what they think are tricky questions – this time it’s “which is the greatest commandment of the law?” And you’ll remember Jesus’ reply – about loving God totally, and loving our neighbour as ourselves. “On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.” And I think it’s good to bring ourselves back to this passage frequently, especially at those times when we can easily get confused – what is the teaching of the Church about this or that; how do I apply the teaching of Christ to this situation? And the answer always is – Do the loving thing – are we showing our love for God, and for our neighbour, by behaving in this way?

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Chris Long; we pray for those who have died recently - Michael Jacoby (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 8th November), Margaret Larkin (funeral 11.30am Saturday 11th November, Reception 5.30pm Friday), Carlindo Sobral Santos, Dorothy Handerek, Kaye Gomes; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Patrick Condon, Johanna Joyce, Ralph Crisp, Maureen Wilmann, Mick Faherty, Mary O’Shea.

Feast of All Saints:

Wednesday this week is the Feast of All Saints, and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be at 6.30pm Vigil on Tuesday, and 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm on Wednesday. On Thursday, the Feast of All Souls, Masses will be at the usual weekday times 9.30am and 6.30pm.

Confirmation Program:

The first meeting for candidates for Confirmation for next year will be taking place this Sunday, 29th October at 5.00pm in the Red Room. All prospective candidates, their parents and carers are expected to attend.

Coffee Morning Next Sunday:

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be next Sunday, 5th November, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00 am. Mass. Why not avail of this 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, or, weather permitting, in the garden, and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Adoremus Liverpool 2018:

A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for 7-9 September 2018. The highlight of the weekend will be the gathering of 10,000 pilgrims in the Echo Arena on the Saturday, at which the Cardinal will lead us in Adoration, and he and Bishop Robert Barron are scheduled to speak. There will also be a Theological Symposium on the Friday, and Procession and solemn Masses in the Metropolitan Cathedral on the Sunday. Our Parish has been allocated just **seven** places (which is considerably more than the average parish) which need to be confirmed **immediately**, so anyone who might be interested on any of the days should contact Fr. Pat **as soon as possible**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. More detailed information about the events can be obtained at www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events .

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,280. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Last week's appeal for the Missionaries of St. Paul has raised to date £946. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com .

Parish Bazaar – November 25th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 25th of November which, believe it or not, is only four 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, 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.

Parish Centre Ceili Mix:

The first Friday of the month Ceili evenings continue on 3rd November from 8.30pm. Something for everyone to take part in: Quick Steps, Sets, Waltzes and Ceili dances. Music by Tony Kearney Band, Admission £5.

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.

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Full training will be given. You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.