



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat ([pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto: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)

## 15th April 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Easter DIDACHE, A FORGOTTEN WAY

After the Christ Event the little band of disciples did the most improbable, seemingly impossible thing. From that little corner of Palestine they began to spread out in such a way and at such a pace they transformed the world. In less than 300 years they established the dominant religion of the mighty Roman Empire. The spread of Christianity in this period is one of the extraordinary phenomena in human history. This group of people had no economic, political, social capital. They had no Snapchat, Facebook, or twitter. They did not even have Text. They were hunted and persecuted. So how did this fledgling movement not only survive but thrive in such a way that they became the very foundation of Western Civilization?

One word they used gives us a clue. The word is 'Didache'. In Greek it simply meant learning or teaching. Hence our English word 'didactic'. Nowadays we are inclined to think of learning as the subjective pursuit of knowledge. But 'Didache' is less about acquiring knowledge and more about integrating knowledge with action. One can study a particular subject like ancient Mayan history or planetary sciences. And you can study this well enough to be considered an expert in the field. All this despite the fact that you never once lived through that ancient Mayan history or never once stepped foot on a planet other than earth. Some things you can learn and even master without having personal experience with the subject matter; but not everything.

Some things that we learn do not require personal experience. But 'Didache' is about the kind of learning that forms you; that changes you through the experience of practising it. And we see this in the letter to the Ephesians, in which Paul says that to be Christian isn't simply learning about Christ; but learning to be like Him. Some argued that it was simply enough to know about Christ, without actually changing your behaviour. So Paul responds; "I insist on this, you can't live like the gentiles live. Put away your old self and clothe yourself with a new self in the likeness of God. There is something more required of you than the knowledge if you are going to be a Christian." He continues; "you can know all the teachings of Jesus, memorize them, master them even, but unless you practice them, it does not make you a good Christian."

He invites us to emulate Christ. "We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything that we are and everything that we do... His breath and blood flow through us; nourishing us, so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love." To be Christian is to emulate Christ. Can you think of somebody in your own life that you desire to emulate; to be like. Someone about whom you would say I wish I could be like her. Somebody about whom you might say if only I had his grace or wisdom or passion, or whatever.

Emulation differs from admiration. You can admire somebody and not necessarily want to be like them. To emulate someone is to seek to acquire their personal qualities for yourself. To take on their own nature and their own character in order to be like them. And to emulate Christ is to strive to attain the attributes and character of Jesus. To be Christian is to hope that one day someone might say of us "when I look at you I see in you the face of Christ. The way you walk, the way you talk, your manner, your character, it reminds me of Jesus." To emulate Christ is to clothe yourself with a new self, created in the likeness of God. It begins with a life of charity and selflessness. In the gospel of Luke Jesus has this wonderful phrase: "Go, and do likewise." Living in the image of God, taking on the new self; it takes time. It begins with 'going and doing likewise' until the day comes when you are 'likewise'.

Fr. George C.P.

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**We pray for those who have died recently** – Michael Tyrrell (funeral 12 noon Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April), Aliemar Eccles (funeral 1.30pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April), Anthony (Tony) Miles, Maureen Dooley; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Patrick Kiely, Anne Gorman, Tom, John & David Lavelle, Rose Hennessy, Jack Killeen, Peter William Rosendale, Renata Rosendale.

### **Fr. Christopher:**

Many of you have been asking after Fr. Christopher lately. As you may be aware, he has been having some health problems lately, that have required him to be in the Whittington Hospital. He would very much appreciate your prayers at this time, but requests that you refrain from visiting, as he needs much rest and attention at this time. Thank you.

### **Confirmations:**

This week-end, at the 7 o'clock mass on Saturday, we are very happy to welcome in our midst Bishop Nicholas Hudson, who will be officiating at the Confirmation ceremony of 22 of our young people. Nowadays our young people must make a personal choice to seek to be confirmed and go through a lengthy process of preparation. To make those sorts of choices is not easy nowadays. So I really want to first of all congratulate them on their special day, but also to thank them for coming forward and publicly committing to their faith. They are the church's hope for the future. We look forward to them becoming active members of our Parish community and being a source of inspiration to us all, but particularly our younger people. A very special word of thanks to Cheryl and to her team of helpers who have prepared them for this wonderful day.

### **Planned Giving Boxes:**

Our financial year ended at a most inopportune time this year – in the middle of Easter Week. It has made for added difficulties in distributing the planned giving boxes of envelopes for this coming year. Many have already done so, but if you haven't, then they will be available at the back of the church after masses this week-end, and subsequently will continue to be 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 people at the back of the church - or the Parish office - know, and they will assign you 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. We are genuinely grateful to those who have been Gift-Aiding. If you haven't been doing so already, and are in a position to Gift-Aid, perhaps you might think of doing so now. Forms will be available at the back of the church while the planned giving boxes are being distributed, and at any other time from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,252. 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.

### **Pilgrimage to Knock:**

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating one of those anniversaries, please give to Fr. Pat the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

### **Concert for Mind:**

There will be a fundraising concert for mental health charity Mind, here at St. Joseph's on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, at 8.15pm. It will feature operatic and sacred classics by Mozart, Verdi, Vivaldi and others. Tickets £15 (£10 conc.) at the door.

### **Dome-estic Problems:**

You may be surprised after your Easter holidays to find that we still have scaffolding going up to the dome of the church. We had initial problems when a couple of panels were blown down during a storm in January. On closer inspection it was seen that a few more panels were reaching their 'don't use after' date, and so were in need of treatment. To cut a long story short, while the present work will hopefully deal with current problems, every indication is that the entire copper-work will need to be replaced in the next five to ten years!