



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)

24th September 2017 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sharing, Caring

I was reading the gospel for this week-end – it's the gospel about people being hired to work in the vineyard, and the people who were hired late in the day got paid the same amount as those who had been working from early morning – and it got me to thinking about my earliest experiences of 'employment'. Of course at the time I didn't call it that, it was called 'minding the shop'. Let me explain. My maiden aunt had a very small grocery shop, in a very small village, in a remote part of Kerry. It really was a converted bedroom, with the door removed and replaced by a counter. From my childish point of view it stocked all the basic essentials – tea and sugar (no milk – you got that directly from a local cow), and cakes (people made their own bread) and sweets and ice-cream. I'm sure there were lots of other items, but apart from tinned fruit and jars of jam and Irel coffee (yuck) I can't remember many of them now.

But what I do remember is that my aunt was always delighted to see me coming for the summer, because it meant that she could frequently go visiting all the old folk in the area, and leave me 'minding the shop'. I didn't mind, as it gave me an excuse to be indoors and reading, and there probably wouldn't be more than a few customers in an afternoon. And no, it didn't mean I had access to a wonder-world of sweets and ice-cream! I was a good boy then, and even if nobody else was watching me, I knew God was! And it never even crossed my mind that my aunt would pay me – unfortunately it never crossed hers either – only joking, aunty, if you're looking down from heaven!

Such helping out was part of life then. For instance, the local farmers would do it especially at harvest time – they each helped one another to get their crops in. Long days in the fields were all the more bearable and rewarding because they were working as a community, and when the tea and hefty sandwiches were brought out by the women-folk and kids, there was much banter and laughter in the midst of the hard work.

Not for a second would I be advocating returning to the hardship and relative poverty of those times, but there's still nothing out-dated about the values that were incorporated in their working together and in enjoying one another's company. In terms of earning our living, yes, we are largely cut off from our community of friends and relatives, and so we have to find other ways of strengthening those relationships. And it's not too fanciful to suggest that a strong local Parish community is a readily available way of expressing and growing that element of our basic human needs. And one can see it on those occasions when people do come together to help with Parish programs – like First Communion and Confirmations – and Parish events, like Christmas Bazaar, International Food Days, coffee mornings, etc.

When Jesus was telling the story of the generous employer in today's gospel, He wasn't simply saying that bosses should be generous in dealing with their employees – that too of course – but that we should all be generous with our time and talents, in sharing them with, and using them for the benefit of, others. So, as we head into a new year of parish activities, can I invite and encourage you to become more involved? We are always interested in suggestions, and help, in making our Parish truly a place where we live and grow not just as individuals but as a generous, sharing community.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Penelope Brooks, Patrick Timoney; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Beatrice Bailey (funeral 11.30am Friday 29th September); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Gill Comyn, Bridget O'Keeffe, Thomas Carlisle, Antoinette Gerard Coppel, James & Margaret Driscoll, Susan Kerins.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,330. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. 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 pfcp44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course – which is principally intended – but not exclusively – for those who are 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 pfcp44@yahoo.com Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

Parking on Highgate Hill:

We draw your attention to the fact that parking regulations on the section of Highgate Hill beside the church have recently been changed. There is now NO free parking at any time of any day of the week!

Parish Bazaar – November 25th:

We don't seem to be properly back into a new year as yet, and already we are beginning the countdown to our Christmas Bazaar – it's only 10 weeks away! It might appear strange to be announcing it this early, but as this is the only regular fund-raising event we have each year, and also one of our principle social events, it is important that people support it as best they can. We appreciate that people have been very generous over the years in contributing items for the various stalls, and we pray for that to continue, but you will readily appreciate how disheartening it can be for the volunteers who give so generously of their time if on the actual day there is a disappointing attendance. Thank God that hasn't been the case in recent years, where the attendance has been increasing year on year, and feedback has been very positive. But we still have people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So please put the date in your diary, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

100 Club:

The September 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.

Parish Centre Ceili Mix:

A new event on the first Friday of the month starting on 6th October from 8.30pm. Something for everyone to take part in: Quick Steps, Sets, Waltzes and Ceili dances. Music by Tony Kearney Band, Admission £5.

School Transfer Open Days:

St. Aloysius College, Hornsey Lane: Open Evening Wednesday 4 October 5:00 pm prompt, Head's talk, 6:00pm. Open Mornings Saturday 7 October 9:30-11 :00 am, Tuesday 10 October, Wednesday 11 October, Thursday 12 October 9:15-10.30am. www.sta.islington.sch.uk 020 7561 7800.

La Sainte Union, Wednesday 27th September, Thursday 12th October, 2.00 – 3.30 pm. School tours from 2 – 3.00pm. Head's talk at 3.00 pm. www.lasainteunion.org.uk general@lsu.camden.sch.uk 020 7428 4600