



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)

7th May 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

There's no getting away from computers nowadays – like it or not. I'm not complaining – if the truth were told it's probably the kind of world I would have ended up being employed in had I not become a Passionist. And there's no doubt the world has gained many benefits from the development of such ease of communication and computation. But I will admit there are times when they drive me mad. I don't tend to get too upset or frustrated on those occasions when I have maybe failed to complete every "required information" box on a form, and when I press 'next' or some such, it then refuses to move on – but at least on those occasions it usually highlights the areas in which I have been deficient, so that I can go back and fill them in. And normally once they're filled in I'm free to proceed. But when I've spent half an hour carefully scrutinising all the confused instructions on the screens, and have worked my way through three stages and am ready to proceed to stage 'four and final' and suddenly up pops the message – "sorry, there is a problem. Please try again later" – that's when I wish I had a human being, not a computer, in front of me so that I could strangle him! (I wouldn't really, but I think you know what I mean.)

What brought this on, I hear you ask? Well, I had not one, but two such episodes this week, on two completely different sites, while I was trying to complete two essential tasks I needed to accomplish. Having no one to strangle, I decided the best way to calm down would be to take a walk – clock up some steps at the same time! – so I headed down to Archway, as I also had some letters to post. As it happens it was one of those rare times lately when the sun was shining, so I took a little time down there to look more closely at, I believe it's called, "Archway Town Centre". I was wondering who had dreamt up that idea, when for the first time I spotted the park benches dotted around the place. Now, if you were to ask me where is the draughtiest place in this area, and where is the most polluted air around here, Archway corner would be very high, if not the top, on both lists. Would I sit on a bench there? Only if I was smoking forty fags and was dressed like Michelin man! But at least I had the grace to recognise that the scene must have looked lovely on some architect's drawing in a well heated and insulated office in the city. Nice ideas don't necessarily translate into sensible results.

Today is Vocation Sunday, when we traditionally pray to the Lord that He will send labourers into His harvest. Following on from the above, it was never meant to simply be a nice idea – it was always intended to lead to sensible results. It recognises that we all have a role in spreading the message of Christ in our world, but it also draws attention to the need for special roles exercised in the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. All these roles have been, and continue to be, going through a major period of transition and change at the moment, but what is not in dispute is that such people are still very much required. Whatever you may think, I know that our parish needs more dynamic leadership and more contemporarily relevant ideas for liturgy etc. than I'm capable of at this time in my life – and I'm not looking for affirmation. If this was a business it would be immediately obvious. I'm happy to do my best, but I genuinely pray that the future will bring the new wine and the new wineskins that a new, ever-changing Parish needs. I hope you can join me in that prayer.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - May Miranda; we pray for those who have died recently – Fr. Charles Owen CP, Tom Kenny, Jos Byrne, Rita Donnelly; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Dennis Hartung, Gerald Murphy, Billy Ryan, George O'Shea.

Fr. Charles Owen R.I.P.:

For the benefit of the many people who knew and loved Fr. Charles Owen during his very long service in St. Joseph's Parish – I believe he was stationed here for 23 years – we have organised to have his month's mind mass here in St. Joseph's at 6.30pm on Monday 8th May. The principal celebrant will be Fr. John Kearns C.P., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province of the Passionists, and the homily will be given by his class-mate, Fr. Patrick McKeown C.P. All are welcome to attend, and join in the 'afters' in the Hall later.

Confirmations:

Next week-end, at the 7 o'clock mass on Saturday, 13th May, a group of our young parishioners will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Nicholas Hudson, who is our local area Bishop. We thank our young people who have taken this important step in proclaiming and strengthening their faith, and pray that the Lord will always be close to them as they continue to grow in the Spirit. And a very special word of thanks to Cheryl who has prepared them for this wonderful day.

A reminder to the candidates that the final session of their Confirmation program is this Sunday, May 7th, at 5.00pm, followed by 7.00pm Mass, and this is compulsory for those candidates who are due to be Confirmed on May 13th. Any final letters need to be given in at this session and the names of sponsors need to be finalised. The rehearsal will take place at 7.00pm this Wednesday May 10th. On Saturday 13th candidates are asked to be seated no later than 6.30pm as there will be preliminary proceedings prior to the start of Mass.

Coffee Morning This Sunday:

The latest in our series of Parish Coffee Morning will be taking place this Sunday, 7th May, 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.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Nursery Places:

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 they can start in our Nursery Class in September 2017 and we offer FREE full time nursery places 8:55-3:15. Please complete an application which - downloadable from our website (the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) - and if you are applying for a Catholic place, please also complete the priest reference. If this is the case we will also require sight of original Baptismal Certificate and for all applicants the original Birth Certificate which can be dropped in directly to the school office. Forms, Admissions Policy and criteria for offering places at the school, are available to download on the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/admissions-2017-2018/>

Parish Stewardship Drive:

A most sincere thank you to you all who participated in our recent Parish Stewardship Drive. It will take a month or two to be able to assess the financial impact, but initial indications are that the response has been very generous. But you will remember that we were also very anxious that many more people get involved in the various parish ministries, and there has also been a very generous response at this level. We will be contacting all those who offered their time and gifts in the very near future – and if you missed out, remember new volunteers are always welcome.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,398. In addition in the past month we have received over £5,000 in standing orders. We are most grateful for your outstanding generosity.

Planned Giving Boxes:

We are now into a new tax year, so the planned-giving boxes for 2017-2018 have come into operation. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes as soon as possible.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral. For the past few years members of our Parish have attended this very meaningful celebration. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating any of the above anniversaries this year, please give Fr. Pat (email or letter) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Pat will forward any details received to the Diocese, who will eventually issue the invitations directly to the couples involved.

St.Gabriel's Retreat:

As part of the parish Golden Jubilee celebrations St.Gabriel's church at Archway will be holding a retreat next week, from Saturday 6th to Friday 12th May, at 6.00pm each evening and ending with Mass at 7.00pm. More details on porch noticeboard.