



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



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)

20th October 2019 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

WHAT DO WE WANT?

Saturday has been a very special day in so many ways. First of all, from the point of view of St. Joseph's Parish, it is the Feast of St. Paul of the Cross – whom you will remember as the Founder of the Passionist Congregation, who have staffed St. Joseph's Parish since 1858. Just a brief reminder of who he was - Paul Francis Danei was born in Ovada, in Northern Italy on January 3rd, 1694. He founded the Congregation of the Passion in 1720 with his brother, John Baptist. Much of his ministry was itinerant, preaching throughout the towns and villages and frequently writing letters. Paul was also in great demand as a spiritual director. He died in Rome on October 18th 1775 and was canonized by Pope Pius IX in 1867. His feast day is October 19th.

In the Papal States where Paul lived most of his life and where he laboured most, there were 2 classes of people: the rich and the poor. The masses lived in miserable conditions. Housing was poorly constructed; food was scarce; malaria was prevalent; illiteracy was common. This is the environment and these are the people that Paul took his message of the Passion of Jesus Christ being the greatest sign of God's love of humanity to. His 'visual aid' was what we call our Passionist Sign, which we wear on our habits, and a version of which all the children in St. Joseph's school wear on their jumpers and their schoolbags. The cross over the heart is a reminder that Jesus's death for us was deeply rooted in love, and if we could appreciate the power of that love we would want to live that love, that life, as fully as possible – which is what I hope we all try to do in St. Joseph's Parish.

Moving on – the first two quarter-finals of the Rugby World Cup have been played today. Still hope for the English – back to the drawing board for the Irish. Not much more to be charitably said! And then Brexit was back in Parliament. And another divisive vote and defeat for the government. I'm not sure if I'm hearing things properly any more, but I'm sure I've heard a number of politicians and commentators saying things like – “what people really want now is for the whole thing to be over and done with, and let's get on with the things that matter – eg. health services, education, rise in crime and shortage of policing, etc” Sometimes it sounded to me like they were advocating “let's agree on any deal, just to get it over and done with!”

Which sounds uncannily like the judge in our gospel today. The widow who felt she was being unjustly treated was not going to simply lie down and take it. She knew the kind of man the judge was – not too interested in giving any thought to the rights or needs of others. But she knew that constantly turning up was causing him to realise that this woman was becoming too much a part of his life, a life that didn't have room for her and her likes, and the quicker he got her out of it, the better. Her persistence was such that the judge settled her case in her favour, just so that he could get some peace. God is inviting us to have that same persistence in our prayers to Him – not because He is unwilling to answer our prayers, but perhaps because He wants us to be sure what it is we actually want. Which sounds uncannily like.....

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We pray for those who have died recently – Michele Feely, Phyllis Murphy; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Dorothy Ambler, Hannah Ahern, Susan Kerins, Lilian Bates, Nora McGarry, Laurie Villanueva, Mani Xavier.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,329. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

St. Joseph's School – spaces for 3 year-olds:

We are very blessed as a Parish to have a truly wonderful Primary and Nursery School linked to our Parish. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has an individual identity that combines traditional values with a modern vibrant vision. The school is an Ofsted and Diocesan rated 'Outstanding' school, with an ethos based on faith, community and a true partnership between home, school, and Parish. St Joseph's is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support them in their faith development.

We currently have spaces in our Little Gems Nursery Class for children who have just turned 3. If you are interested in your child joining our Little Gems Nursery Class now or later on this academic year please pick up an application form at the back of the church or from the school office. office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk. You are also more than welcome to come along to our open days either on Tuesday 15th October or Thursday 21st November at 9:15am, no need to book just come along.

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.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd November. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2020 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Parish Bazaar – November 16th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 16th of November just **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, 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.

St. Gabriel's Charity Evening:

St. Gabriel's Parish at Archway are hosting an evening of entertainment featuring a variety of performances to help sponsor their services to the homeless and the needy. The event is scheduled for Saturday 26th October from 6pm to 9pm, and will take place in their Community Centre, at 21 Hatchard Road. N19 4NG. Money raised will help to fund their outreach kitchen, and their winter shelter.

Caritas Food Collective: Volunteers needed:

The Caritas Food Collective is a new project focused on tackling food poverty across the diocese. They are looking for volunteers to help for one day in one of seven locations in the diocese. Their first goal is to create holiday clubs to help children and families access nutritious, healthy food and enjoy fun activities during school holidays. The pilot will take place during the October half-term. Roles include catering, running children's activities, delivery driving and administration. Full training will be provided. To find out more please contact cfc@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7931 6077. Or visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/search-for-volunteering-opportunities.php.

Caritas Family Holiday Club:

Volunteers needed – 22nd October 2019 Caritas Westminster are launching a new family holiday club in Islington to help children and families access nutritious, healthy food and enjoy fun activities during the holidays. The club will run at Blessed Sacrament Primary School (N1 0UF) on 22nd October between 11am-2pm. We need lots of volunteers to get involved! There are many different roles available with something to suit everyone such as catering, running children's activities, delivery driving and administration. Please arrive at 9 am on 22nd October to get involved - volunteer training will be provided and the day will finish by 3pm. To find out more and register your interest contact cfc@rcdow.org.uk / 020 7931 6077.