



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE
Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@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)

20th November 2016 – Feast of Christ the King Long Live The King!

I want to begin our little article this week with a brief report on what is happening with regard to the works in the Church. As I mentioned already, the painting is proceeding apace once again, and is scheduled to be completed by December 2nd, with all the scaffolding away by the following week-end, December 9th. (So all the helpful suggestions on how to decorate it for Christmas won't be needed!) While the scaffolding is there we are using the opportunity to do a couple of other lesser jobs – that don't require the permission of 'Heritage', I might add! All the windows are being given a simple cleaning on the inside. How much difference that will make to the light getting in is questionable, as presumably the majority of the dirt is on the outside! But at least we will know they're clean. And the other job is the repair/replacement of the bits of glass that are broken/missing. Neither job is very major, and in the scale of overall expenses will make very little difference to the final bill.

Speaking of expenses reminds me that recently we passed the £90,000 mark for the total of contributions received from the Growing in Faith campaign. When we add to that the almost £13,400 that we've already claimed back in Gift Aid from HMRC, that comes to a total of £103,929.50 raised through the Growing in Faith campaign. We are not going to reach the original pledged amount of £250,000 (Gift Aid included), as, unfortunately some of the people who pledged have since been called home to the Lord, and others have moved away from the Parish, but I do want to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all of you who have been so faithful to your original pledges. With the expense of the roof repairs and the church painting your contribution has been vital.

And now on to more spiritual matters! It might seem a strange thing to say in this day and age, but today's feast comes at a very appropriate time this year. We don't have very many kingdoms in our world nowadays – not even here in the so-called United Kingdom, which is neither very united nor a kingdom, thanks to the longevity of her majesty! And long may it remain so, I hear many of you saying. Kingdoms and empires have somewhat gone out of fashion. Democracy is the 'in' form of government, certainly in what we refer to as the western world – though recently some might think it seems more like the 'wild-west' world! After some recent examples of what our modern democracies have achieved, both here and in the States, I think there are some beginning to wonder if maybe kingdoms aren't all that bad.

But in reality today's feast has nothing to do with modern politics, and it's certainly an entirely different understanding of Kingdom. The coronation of Jesus as King doesn't take place in glorious surroundings of palace or cathedral, but on a cross! He is surrounded not by admirers and well-wishers but by those who have rejected His message. And yet, in the midst of the din and all the abuse that is going on there is one, probably very weakened, voice who is prepared to stand out from the crowd and offer a word of support to Jesus, as well as a simple prayer that he be remembered. My, how that prayer was answered! Not only is his brave act still remembered here on earth to this day, but more importantly He is given a promise that he will instantly get his reward in the Kingdom of Heaven.

And of all those gathered around in this scene, he is the only to whom Jesus responds. It wasn't easy for the 'repentant thief', and he reminds us that similarly it's very often not very easy for us to speak out for the truth. But the rewards are great!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – Joyce Oparah; we pray for those who have died recently – Darren McDonnell, Michael Pender; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Brendan Nolan, Kathleen Mackey, Anthony & Joe McNulty, John McDonnell, Gladys Ryan.

Christmas Bazaar:

Well, it's all over for another year! Hard to believe that the Christmas Bazaar has already come and gone! We were blessed that so many people took the opportunity to venture out and enjoy the company of other parishioners, have a bite to eat, hunt for some bargain buys, have a go at winning some bottles of central heating, enjoy the entertainment and all the while contributing to the funds of the Parish. It was wonderful to see so many people turn up, and while fund-raising is an important part of the day, I think the social event is probably even more valuable. There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout, and people, of all ages, seemed to be enjoying themselves - which isn't always that easy to do when people are asking you to spend your money! I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who put so much hard work into making it possible for the day to happen; the many who so generously gave of their time on the day itself to staff the various stalls; the many who stayed behind to make sure everything was tidied up and put away. And of course it's important to acknowledge the many who took time out and turned up on the day itself and contributed not just financially, but in creating such a lively and happy atmosphere. Special thanks are due to Cheryl and Roxane who put so much work into organising the event - without their supreme effort and generosity with their time, none of the above would have happened.

Dates for your Diary:

Other Christmas dates for your diaries: the **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 11th December at 3.00pm, and our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be next Saturday, November 26th. The course is open to all planning on getting married during 2017 – 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

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,568. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

St. Joseph's Primary School:

St Joseph's Primary school would like to invite you to their open morning on **Tuesday 22nd November**. Registration and refreshments from 9:15am. All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available from the school office or to download from the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/>

100 Club:

The November 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.

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2017 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.

Towards Advent :

A Festival of Catholic Culture is being held on Saturday 26th November in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue London SW1 1QJ from 10am. Over 30 organisations will be attending and it is an opportunity for them to give an insight into their activities and they will also have many articles for sale. Admission is free. In addition some talks and workshops will be given during the event. Further details are available on ['towardsadvent@blogspot.com'](mailto:towardsadvent@blogspot.com)

St Gabriel's Retreat:

St. Gabriel's Parish are having a retreat on the lives of the saints to mark the start of Advent and the Golden Jubilee of their Church in 2017. There will be two sessions on Friday 25 November (11 am and 6 pm) and one session on Saturday 26th at 11am. Refreshments will be served after the Masses.

School References:

Some Secondary schools demand of parents that they get a reference from the priest of their Parish. Parents enter on the application form the name of their Parish Priest, and the school then sends a form to the priest. At present I have two such forms, and haven't the foggiest idea who the children involved are, and so clearly cannot give the required reference. If you are one of the families involved, or you know who might be, then please let me know immediately. These may very well be people I see every week, but can't put a name to! (Please do not confuse this with the Certificate of Religious Practise which I seem to sign for hundreds of people after the Sunday Masses!)