



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

[www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

## P A R I S H B U L L E T I N

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2nd February 2020. Presentation of the Lord  
(Mass Book page 297)

Registered Charity  
1173084



# Candlemas

Fr. George Koloth CP

Today is the true end of the Christmas season. Forty days after Christmas the infant Jesus was presented in the temple of Jerusalem and placed in the arms of the old man Simeon who declared,

"Lord, you now have set your servant free  
To go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Saviour,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

In the Church this day is celebrated on February 2, forty days after Jesus' birth. It is a major feast and is variously known as the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the Feast of Meeting, the Purification of Mary, and Candlemas. Each name underscores a particular aspect of the day. The name Candlemas focuses attention on the candlelight procession during the liturgy on this feast of Jesus, who is the light of the world. It became customary to bless not only the candles carried in the procession but also the year's supply of liturgical candles and to give parishioners a blessed candle to take home. We are postmodern people living in postmodern times, though. Why do we still use candles in the liturgy? Because candles are usually made of beeswax, and they are the fruit of this natural world into which the 'Lord of small things' entered! Moreover, candles in giving off light are themselves consumed. Another powerful metaphor of self-giving sacrifice of Jesus and all his disciples that makes many lives luminous. The candlelight is an outward and visible sign of Christ who illumines our heart and inner being. St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking about the mystery of this day, asks us to consider three aspects of the blessed candles. He says, "The wax of the candles signifies the virginal flesh of the Divine Infant, the wick figures His soul, and the flame his divinity."

## The Day of Consecrated Life

On this day the Church celebrates the Day of Consecrated Life in this setting of light, faith and hope. All those who have offered their life to Christ for ever for the proclamation of the Kingdom of God are invited to renew their 'yes' to the special vocation they have received. The entire Ecclesial community, however, also rediscovers the riches of the prophetic witness of consecrated life in the variety of its charisms and apostolic commitments.

PASSION  
LED US  
HERE



## MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS

You don't have to worry  
And don't you be afraid  
Joy comes in the morning  
Trouble, they don't always last.

For there's a friend in Jesus  
Who will wipe your tears away  
And if your heart is broken  
Just lift your hands and say!

Oh! I know that I can make it  
I know that I can stand  
No matter what may come my way  
My life is in your hands.

No matter what comes my way  
Dear Lord, my life is in your hands.

—Lorraine Redmond

## MASSES



**Sunday**  
(Saturday 7pm) 8am,  
10am, 12pm,  
1.30pm (Polish), 7pm  
**Holidays**  
6.30pm vigil, 9.30am  
11am, 6.30pm  
**Weekdays**  
9.30am, 6.30pm  
**Saturday**  
9.30am, 7pm  
**Bank Holiday**  
9.30am

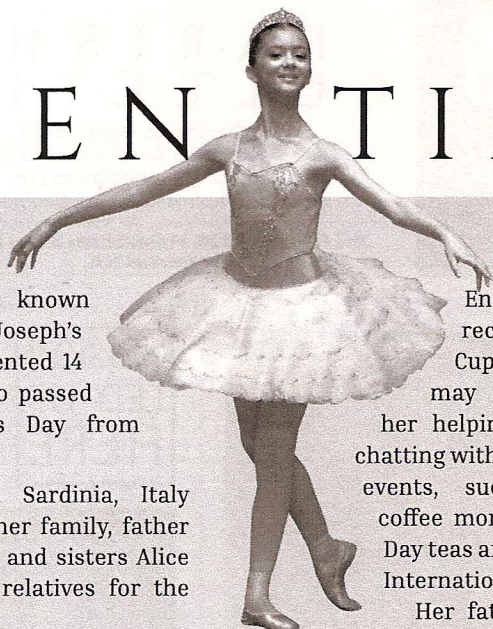


## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday** 10-10.30am,  
6.30-6.45pm,  
**Weekdays** immediately  
after Mass (on request)



# VALENTINA



Many of us have known Valentina Sanna, a St Joseph's parishioner, and a talented 14 year old ballerina, who passed away on New Year's Day from meningitis.

Valentina died in Sardinia, Italy having travelled with her family, father Alberto, mother Paola, and sisters Alice and Elenora, to visit relatives for the Christmas holidays.

The meningitis came on suddenly and nothing could be done. The family was devastated, but they know, as do we parishioners, that Valentina was a precious gift. She was very modest, quiet and mature for her years. She tip-toed through life in a literal and metaphorical sense. Many people called her an angel.

Valentina was born in Italy and raised in the UK, living in Liverpool and later, London. She studied classical ballet and performed in The Nutcracker at London's Royal Albert Hall, and also represented

England in the recent Ballet World Cup in Portugal. You may also have seen her helping, serving and chatting with all at the parish events, such as Sunday coffee mornings, Mother's Day teas and the Pentecost International lunches.

Her father, Dr Alberto Sanna, who runs the Liverpool-based teaching charity, Early Music as Education, said he wanted to start a new charity focussing on dance tuition in memory of Valentina.

He expressed, "Valentina was very central to our family life. A really beautiful human being. We will set up a charity in her memory to help aspiring classical dancers achieve their dreams without forgetting the values of respect, love, commitment and elegance which Valentina cherished so much."

*-Mirek Skrypak*



## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

*"Jesus said to (Peter), 'feed my sheep.'" (Jn. 21:17)*

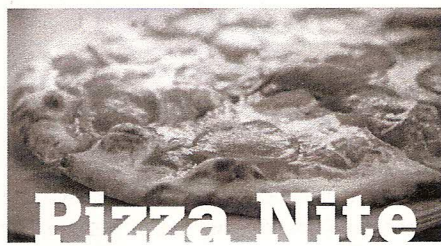
While the command to feed God's flock was given only to St. Peter, and through him, to all ordained ministers, the Church in recent years has allowed the faithful to aid them in this ministry. Aiding the priests and deacons in distributing Holy Communion at Mass is a truly humbling way to serve our Lord and our community. As we celebrate the great Jubilee of the Passionists we invite you to consider if the Lord may be calling you to be an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at our parish.

If you believe you may be called to this ministry or if you have any questions, please contact us at joseph.highgate@gmail.com

Save  
THE  
Date

Cafe 'Connect

Sun | February | 2 | 11 am  
Red Room



Pizza Nite

Altar Servers

Fri | February | 7 | 5:45 - 7:45

Fabrizio N19 5NL  
scottandrew 825@yahoo.com



## PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE

Sat | February | 29  
lizzie@eidinow.co.uk

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Joint Session

Thu | March | 12 | 7.30 pm  
Red Room

PASTORAL VISITATION SAT - 21  
SUN - 22  
Bp. Nicholas Hudson MARCH

100  
CLUB

**100 CLUB RESULTS.** The number of entries: 122. And the winners are : £400: Ita Watters(39), £100: Denise Palmer (155), £60: Caitriona Kelly (131). Thank you very much for your generous support.

PRAY

We pray for those who have died recently.

- ✕ Joyce Oparah  
(funeral 12 noon  
Friday 7th February)
- ✕ Ann Shears
- ✕ Valentina Sanna
- ✕ Annie Murphy
- ✕ Patrick Walsh
- ✕ Madam Mary Bebu



REMEMBER

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time  
**Denis McGarry**  
**Pat McKendry**  
**Mary Gaynor**  
**Hanora McCrohan**  
**Tom Hennesy**  
**Rachel & Agnes Hewitt**  
**Raymond Hogan**  
**Fr. Andy McGovern**  
**Gerry Sullivan**  
**Rosaleen Fox**  
**Nora & Daniel Curran**

We can't exist without the generosity of the people that call Holy Joes home. When we give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love.

Last week's collection amounted to £1,307. Thank you very much.

