



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

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)

14th February 2016 – 1st Sunday of Lent Start at the End!!

Would it be unfair to ask, even at this early stage, how the Lenten resolutions are going? Or would it be fair to ask if one even made a Lenten resolution? Let's be honest, for many people that kind of idea can be dismissed as being part of a different age – no longer relevant in our modern computerised world. And there's no denying that there is a certain truth in that – there are not too many areas of life where we are doing things the same way now as we were, say, fifty years ago. But for those who are well-grounded, they will recognise that while many of the externals have changed, the basic principles remain the same. We want our children to have a healthy diet, for instance, but it's not likely to be the same food as in our younger days. We want them to have the best education possible, but it's not going to be in a school like the ones we went to. And so on.

And the fact that you are coming to Church, and reading this, is probably an indication that you want them to live their lives by the best set of values, which we believe come from the teaching of Jesus. But how best to do that? I came across the following story during the week, which may highlight one aspect of the answer, and which is also relevant to our celebration of Lent -

One day a mother found a six pack of beer in her daughter's closet. When her daughter came home, she asked her daughter what is this? The daughter responded, "It looks like a six-pack of beer." The mother responded, "Don't get smart with me, young lady. You tell me about this." The daughter thought for a moment and then said that she was hiding it for a friend. The mother didn't believe her. The girl ran off to her bedroom and slammed the door.

The mother sought advice from a good friend. The friend said to her, "Why were you so concerned with finding the beer in her closet?" The mother replied, "Because I don't want her to get into trouble." The friend said "I understand that, but why is it you don't want her to get into trouble?" The mother responded, "Well, because I don't want her to ruin her life." Her friend said that she understood that, "but why don't you want her to ruin her life?" Finally the mother got the point and replied, "because I love her." The friend then said, "Do you think she got that message?" The mother thought for a moment and said, "Of course not."

Then the friend said to her, "what do you think would happen if you started with that message? If you had told her that you love her very much and were scared when you found the beer hidden in her room and could we talk about this? With this approach you begin by being vulnerable instead of conducting an inquisition that inevitably leads to denial. Starting from the position of love, which is your goal, provides the focus so that the child can then open up and work together with you on some kind of solution."

I suspect many of you will identify with elements of that story, but even for those of us who are not parents, and who find ourselves struggling to remain fresh in our commitment to our faith and what that faith asks of us, there is sound advice there. Keeping the intended goal in sight can be a very effective motivation – no less during Lent than any other time. It's not our Lenten resolutions that are important so much as what we are trying to achieve through them. If everything we do during Lent is with this end in mind, then we will all find the realisation of our Lenten goal when we come to celebrate with the Risen Christ at Easter.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Raymond Hogan (funeral 11.00am Wednesday 24th February), Sr. Helen McChesney OSA, Anna France, Sheila Walsh, David Jones, Monolo Balseiro; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Bro Bernard Conolly CP, Jack Grace, Elizabeth Wright, John, Mary & Johnny Curran, Patrick Garvey, Tommy & Kathleen Carroll, St.Clair Redmond.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,755. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. We really do appreciate your continuing generosity.

Stations of the Cross:

During the season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross immediately after the 6.30 pm. Mass each Friday. This is a particularly appropriate form of prayer during Lent, especially in a Passionist church, as it encourages meditation on the profound mystery on the depth of the Lord's love for us as expressed in His passion, death and resurrection. Of course, if the set time is not suitable for you, you can also do this particular form of prayer at any time on your own or with some friends.

Lent Projects:

During previous Lents you have been very generous in your support of Fr. Rick in Haiti, and the Cardinal Hume Centre. Both charities are particularly worthy in that they not only provide emergency help to those in need, but concentrate much of their resources in finding long-term solutions for their clients through education and training. For the six Sundays of Lent we will be having an exit collection after all Masses, the proceeds of which will be divided between Haiti and the Cardinal Hume Centre. In addition, two wall-boxes at either side of the church are devoted to the same causes. I know you will be as generous as usual in your support of these worthy causes.

Lent Groups:

There is still time to sign up for this year's ecumenical Lent Groups. Details are available in the porch for a range of courses with daytime or evening meetings to choose from. Courses begin this week so please pick up a leaflet and sign up on the list in the porch as soon as possible. St. Joseph's Group will be studying the new York Course "*The Psalms: Prayers for Today's Church*", meeting in the Red Room, 10.30am–12 noon on Tuesdays beginning February 16th.

St. Valentine's Day:

This Sunday is also the feast of St. Valentine. We keep in mind in our prayers today all the married couples of our parish who as they live together their love for one another give witness to the reality that there is more to true love than flowers and chocolates!

Welcome to New Members of our Parish:

This Saturday afternoon, 13th, 5 people who have been engaged with the RCIA program since last October, were welcomed – along with hundreds more candidates from other parishes - by the Cardinal and his auxiliary Bishops at a ceremony called the Rite of Election in Westminster Cathedral. We congratulate them all on reaching this stage of their preparation to being welcomed into full membership of our community at the Easter Vigil service. In the meantime I recommend them to your prayers as they enter this final phase of their preparation. They will be introduced to you during Lent on those Sundays, and at those masses, where we celebrate the Scrutinies.

Welcome to New Members of our Parish(2):

I don't know whether our parish community has become more mobile or not, but it seems to me at present that hardly a week goes by than another family approach me after mass to introduce themselves as new arrivals to our area and our Parish. We are very happy to have them join us and hopefully be strengthened in their faith through participation in our parish life, and we are very keen that they should also share with us their particular talents and gifts, so that our parish may be continually renewed and refreshed in its commitment to the Lord.

John & William Kelly RIP:

Brothers John & William (Bill) Kelly have both died recently, with no relatives traced so far. John lived in Milton Park and is known to have attended Mass at St. Joseph's. If anyone who might have known them is able to offer any information which could help to find their family, please contact Muswell Hill parish 020 8883 5607 or Carol Walker at Cranley Dene Court care home 020 8444 0113.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm.

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm. 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 2015. 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.