



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)

22nd September 2019 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let It All Out

Young Timothy was apprentice to Paul and there are two letters written to Timothy who remains in Ephesus after Paul has left. The first one is geared at giving Timothy instructions on what he should be doing while Paul is away and there is a good bit of effort given to encouraging him to beware of false teachers. The author further instructs him on issues related to leadership and places a focus on living in the world, but remembering that we are not of this world.

In today's passage, the focus is on prayer. The author opens by urging us to pray for every person — this includes people who ruled over them and had high positions in government. This is a significant bit of instruction because at this time in the Roman Empire people often saw their rulers as divine and so they prayed to them. The author is saying, pray for them, not to them. His statement is as much political as it is an instruction on prayer.

Prayer is a funny and personal thing, isn't it? Back in India when I was working with the less privileged I used to hear a lot of people talking about prayer and answered prayers and about how people 'just need to pray more'. It was during this time of my life that I really began to understand that prayer was really about changing me. I have never really believed that God is like some Santa Clause or vending machine in the sky — but understanding how prayer worked in my own life has been a journey for me over time. **And the best thing I know is that prayer is about relationship.**

In today's text, the author lists different kinds of prayers: petition, intercession, urgent and bold prayer, expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving. And this is not unusual for the works attributed to Paul. He puts similar lists in other writings as well. Often the church has tried to make these lists into some kind of formula for prayer. And it makes sense. Especially when we are teaching children about prayer, it is good to help them learn all of the different ways we can talk to God. However, perhaps what Paul is trying to convey is, "Take it all to God. What you pray about is less important than the act of intentionally engaging in the practice of prayer itself." I love to share that I have found encouragement, meaning, and hope in learning to pray different forms of prayer. If I could encourage you all in anything it would be to learn about ways people have prayed throughout time and try them for yourselves. Not every kind of prayer will fit a person, but all people can find value in discovering new ways to pray. Developing a practice of talking to God about all that is happening in our lives is a good habit to form. We can name all the stuff we want, we can ask for help, we can express love and gratitude and we can express anger, sadness, and hurt feelings. We can bargain, we can feel hopeless, we can talk through a logistical problem. It doesn't really matter — because the important part is developing a habit of confessing our greatest needs and deepest joys to the one who created us. And then taking time to listen to God's response.

Personally, one of the most helpful practices I've done is what is called a colloquy. The idea is to have a conversation with God and write it down. It is like you are writing a script — write a line of what you want to say to God, and then imagine how God will reply and write it down. Go back and forth like this for several lines. I often find my way to help or hope or joy or peace or sometimes all of them when I have engaged this kind of practice. However — how you pray is not the point. Taking time to pray is.

Fr. George

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We pray for those who have died recently – Leonard Connor, John Girolami, Bernard Frances; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Desley Deike, Gill Comyn, Bridget McElhinney, Jacqueline Louise Deeley, Donna Kinsella, James & Margaret Driscoll, Tom Webster.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are now available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is **accompanied by a baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as that being made by our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning today after the 10 o'clock mass. This is a good opportunity to meet new parishioners, catch up on the holiday stories, and share plans for the new year.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,484. 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.

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 will be available once the date is confirmed.

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

It is too early yet to know whether we will be having an RCIA course here this year. The course is free, and takes place if enough interest is expressed. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. George, so that we can have some idea as to what needs to be provided. Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let us know if you are interested.

Part-Time Jobs in St. Joseph's School:

The Governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery are seeking to appoint experienced playworkers to supervise children during lunch time ensuring that the children eat meals safely and behave appropriately. They will oversee the safety and wellbeing of pupils whilst in the dining hall and during lunchtime play. The salary is based on term-time only scale 2 (hourly rate £12.06) hours: 11:45am - 1:15pm and required as soon as possible. If you are interested in applying, please contact the school office office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk for an application form and Job Description.

CAFOD Fast Day Collection:

CAFOD Family Fast collection will be taken after Masses this weekend.

100 Club:

The September 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.

Schools Open Days etc...

St Aloysius College, Highgate

Open evening Thursday Sept 26th 4.30-7.30pm

Open morning Sat Sept 28th 9-11am; Open mornings October 1st-3rd 9.15-10.30

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School – Admission for September 2020

Year 7 Admissions: Thursday 26 September 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm. Guided tours of the school will follow each speech.

Year 12 (Sixth Form) Admissions: Thursday 3 October and on Tuesday 15 October 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 5.00 pm. followed by guided tours of the school up to 6.00 pm.

Our Lady's Catholic High School – Hackney

Open Mornings Mon 23rd – Fri 27th September 9.30-10.30am, Saturday 28th September 10.00-12.00am