



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

6th March 2016 – 4th Sunday of Lent Some Local Rivalry!

After this afternoon's result I'm not sure whether all the supporters in North London are happy – honours even – or unhappy – our team should have won it! From a neutral point of view it might be fair to say it was an entertaining game, plenty of good football, lots of incident, and no bloodshed! And four goals to celebrate! I don't know about you, but I'm always a little bemused by goal celebrations, which nowadays tend to be a little on the extreme side. Did you ever notice how the scorer so frequently is able to run half the length of the pitch, maybe even vaulting the advertising hoarding in the process, and all this with up to ten grown men hanging out of him, grabbing whatever they can of him, and one or two of them riding on his shoulders? And this is likely to be same man who a short time before has let out a scream of agony as he fell to the ground and rolled over a dozen times and required five minutes attention with magic sponges, just because one of the opposing team bumped into him! One's ability to stay on one's feet obviously depends on who it is who touches you.

Which you might say was one of the problems that the young man in our Gospel story this week was having to deal with. His father had given him every opportunity, by prematurely providing him with his inheritance, to be able to stand on his own two feet. But he allows himself to be touched by all the wrong kind of people – the kind he fell too easily for and who brought him down – people who were his supporters as long as he was providing the goods, but who clearly didn't want to know him once he ceased to be a soft touch and had nothing left to give. But he does eventually come to his senses, and decides that changes have to be made. I'm sure he put a lot of thought into whether or not he should risk returning home – after all he had rather insultingly walked out on them by seeking to have his inheritance given him before his parents had even died. How was he likely to be received? He might reasonably have expected many lectures of the 'I told you so' variety – "You didn't appreciate how well off you were with your family all around you to support you and provide for you", and so on. So when he risks all that and still returns, we get an idea of just how desperate he really was.

And what does he meet? It's almost like he's scored the winning goal – (ahem, which nobody could do in North London today!) – as his father rushes out to meet him with arms outstretched in welcome. There are no questions as to the genuineness of his sorrow, just the father's joy at having his son back. A joy that unfortunately, and fairly understandably, was not shared by the other son. This didn't seem like fair play – he had put in all the hard honest endeavour in looking after the farm, but no obvious recognition for him! What did he have to do to be one the winning side, as it were? But Jesus is not asking us, in this particular story, to examine the behaviour of the sons, but to focus rather on the behaviour and attitude of the father. He didn't see the sons as rivals for his affection, but as objects of his affection, no matter what. As we move ever closer to Easter, we are reminded that we worship a God who not only has given His very life for us, but who, even when we wander off is always there to welcome us home – no matter what. As far as the Father is concerned, once we have the sense to turn to Him in our time of need, then you might say we're all winners!

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We pray for those who have died recently – John Murphy (Requiem Mass 4.00pm Monday 7th March – funeral to follow in Ireland), Herbert Trent (funeral arrangements not yet finalised), Ronald Rossi, Hugh D'Arcy, Seamus Morris; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Jack Grace, Ned Hynes, Alice Foye, Teresa & Frank Rooney.

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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,616. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. We really do appreciate your continuing generosity.

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.

Spring Cleaning:

At last the notice you've been waiting for! We will be arranging another church cleaning session on Friday 18th March, from 2.00-4.00pm. If you are free at that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way, please sign up on the volunteering list in the porch or contact Roxane on 020 7263 6831, or email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com. The usual refreshments will be provided!

Year of Mercy Mass:

As part of Islington Deanery's observance of the Year of Mercy, a special Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be celebrated here at St. Joseph's on Saturday 19th March at 12.30pm. People and priests from around the Deanery will be attending, and it would be nice to see a good representation from our own Parish.

Churches Together United Worship:

As you may be aware, a regular series of worship events has been taking place in the various churches in the Highgate area. The next event will be in St. Augustine's, on the Archway Road. Fr. Tiernan will be preaching at this ecumenical evening of shared prayer next Sunday, 13th March, at 6.00pm.

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:

Cardinal Vincent will lead the 6th Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy land, 4 -12th November. Price £1495 per person sharing; £320 single supplement. Full board. Contact Gil Didino at Tangney Tours for a booking form. Gill@tangney-tours.com; 01732 886666

Planning your children's Easter Break?:

Premier Sport (Ofsted registered) will be running a holiday camp for 4 – 12 year olds at **St Joseph's Primary School, Highgate Hill, N19** during the Easter holiday's - Tuesday 29th March until Friday 1st April and Monday 4th April until Thursday 7th April. Half Day, £12.95 : 9.00am – 12.30pm, Regular Day, £19.95 : 9.00am – 3.30pm, Extended Day, £24.95 : 8.30am – 4.30pm. You can book individual days as required. Further information or to book on-line please visit www.premiersport.org or for any other queries please call or email Alexandra Smart **m:07824139604 | t:02037403378 | e:asmart@premier-education.com**.

Charity Concert:

Sonlight, Contemporary Christian band, will be performing a concert at St Joseph's Parish centre, Highgate on Sunday 13th March from 5pm to 7pm. £5 Adult/Children free. Proceeds go to the Highgate Homeless.

Permanent Deacon Come and See:

Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting at St Edward the Confessor, 700 Finchley Rd, Golders Green, NW11 7NE on Saturday 12th March from 10am to 12. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.

Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony: (Last Call!!)

This event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm. The Archbishop will be inviting all couples who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you qualify 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. Closing date – 7th March!!