



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)

2nd October 2016 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time A Balanced View!

I like the story about the tight-rope walker – let's call him Joe - who took on to walk across a 250 yard wide canyon. He first walks across it, apparently almost nonchalantly. Then he walks back, but this time he's blindfolded. And finally, to a massive ovation from the onlookers, he once again crosses, this time pushing a wheelbarrow full of sand. (You may be wondering where this is going – but let me assure you I'm not thinking of doing a walk across any of the scaffolding going across the church at present!) After his exploits Joe was mixing with the crowd of onlookers, and was approached by one in particular who was fulsome in his praise. "You're the greatest I've ever seen," he said. "You really can do anything on that high wire." "You really believe that?" Joe asked. "Certainly" was the reply, "As I said, you're the greatest." "Great", said Joe. "I've been looking for someone to help me with my last trick. Would you mind if I took the sand out of the barrow and you sit in it instead while I wheel you across the canyon?" "You're kidding! Do you think I'm mad?" "So you don't really think I'm that great – you're not prepared to trust my ability when it gets personal for you."

Our gospel today tells us about the power of a true faith – it is tested by the action it leads to. Our faith isn't simply something we profess, it's also something that we must live out in our lives. At present in the parish we are in the process of getting the First Communion and Confirmation programs off the ground, and it caused me to think about the faith that we are passing on to the next generation. It's quite a while now since I've written on the subject of children in Church. And let me preface any remarks by assuring you that by and large most children – and I might add, their parents – behave impeccably, and have a clear understanding that they are in a special place, the house of God. They may not be able to understand the intricacies of our liturgy but know that God and prayer and behaving in a loving way towards others are important. And it is important for them, and indeed for all of us, to have a sense of the sacred.

That's why, I think, that it's important for our children that they be given a reasonable chance of understanding and being involved in this most sacred of occasions. I don't really think they have much opportunity to do this if, for instance, they are brought into the church and led into the back part of the church, where all they are capable of seeing is the backs of the people in front of them. It is hardly surprising that they would be bored, and parents end up having to entertain them with their toys. Or being over in the Lady Chapel, where some parents seem to believe 'anything goes'. They can hardly be aware from there that mass is being celebrated, focused on the Word of God and the Bread of Life being proclaimed from the Sanctuary. Instead they are likely to view where they are as a kind of play area, especially when they see other children apparently having the run of the place.

We fully understand that bringing children to church, and helping them to be involved, is not the easiest of tasks - and we do fully appreciate that any child is capable of having an 'off-day', but please don't give up on them! With the good example of committed parents they will eventually learn to appreciate the sacredness of what they are participating in. One needs only look around and see the many children who live up to Jesus' invitation – "Let the little children come to me." It's like Joe, above – it's about getting the right balance!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - Pa Joe Buckley, Fiona Wilson; **and for those who have died recently** – Perry Clune (funeral 11.00am Friday 7th October), Benedicta Oti, Sarah Grealish, Alice Ryan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Arthur Cross, Gill Comyn, Nicholas O'Neil, Mel Evans, Tom Webster, Ernest Cooke, Maureen Wilmann.

Last Day for First Holy Communion Forms: TODAY!!!

Our First Holy Communion Program will be starting next Sunday, 9th October. The different class-groups will be getting organised during the week, so all concerned are advised to be here for the 10.00pm mass next Sunday, to learn which group they will be in. Lists will be posted in the porch. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the candidates, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. The children will be required to attend as a group at the front of the church at the 10 o'clock mass on the Sundays on which they have class.

Confirmation:

There will be a preliminary meeting of Confirmation candidates next Sunday 9th October at 11.00am in the Red room of the Monastery. All application forms should be returned before then.

Church Cleaning:

A sincere thank you to all those helping with the cleaning of the Church in readiness for the week-end masses. It appears that Saturday mornings at 11.00am is best for most people. So if you've been meaning to come, but maybe forgot it on the day, please feel free to come any Saturday to give a helping hand.

Harvest Sunday:

Next Sunday 9th October is Harvest Sunday. We invite you to bring gifts of food for distribution to the poor of the area (long-dated non-perishable foodstuffs, e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, etc.). This is an opportunity to instruct children on how well-off they are, and the need to be mindful of the less well-off. We will also be holding the Cafod Harvest collection. CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is this Friday, 7th October. We are invited to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, and donate the money saved. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope in the porch and give what you can. Envelopes will be collected next weekend.

Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 19th November:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 19th of November - only seven weeks away! We are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls. We also need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl on felicitymaynard@hotmail.com And of course we hope you will come on the day.

100 Club Results:

The September Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 114 and the winners were: £400 Chiara Mayer-Riekh (142), £100 R. Giumba (20), £50 Ann Hughes (88). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 26th. This course is open to all those 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 pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course - for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com Parish members who would like to take part and refresh their knowledge of the faith, and share their experience of faith with others, are very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so no need to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

Ad for Parish Pastoral Worker/Catechist:

At present we are advertising through the Diocese for a Pastoral Worker/Catechist. Details can be found at - <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/catechetical-co-ordinator-st-josephs-parish-highgate/> if you are interested in applying. Closing date for applications is October 5th.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,634. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

St. Joseph's Primary School:

Our Parish School offers free full time nursery places 8:40-3:15. And there's the option, (subject to availability) of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£8) until 6pm. You are invited to come and see the school for yourself at their next open morning; **Tuesday 18th October**. Registration and refreshments from 9:15 followed by a welcome at 9:30 by the Headteacher, Miss McFlynn. Full tours of the school will be given and senior staff will be available to answer any questions. There is no need to book, just come along. All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available to download on the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/in-year-admissions/>