

# 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

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill  
London N19 5NE | Tel: 020 7272 2320  
Email: [joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com)  
[gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto:gaskoloth@hotmail.com) - Fr. George



16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year  
(Mass Book page 136)

Registered Charity  
1173084

## HE IS AT WORK



Fr. George Koloth CP

The Bible is all about relationships. And these relationships fall into four categories – our relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the created world. In this light we can identify five primary covenants in the Bible: (1) Adamic, (2) Noahic, (3) Abrahamic, (4) Mosaic, and the (5) Davidic, with “the Noahic covenant promising the stability of the cosmic structure, the Abrahamic covenant promising people and land, the Davidic covenant promising sovereignty, and the Mosaic covenant

promising life, security, and prosperity.” as summarised by R.E. Freidman. Believe me, this is the framework to understand all the stories in between. Yes, it is God building a people for Himself. From family (Adam), clan (Noah), tribe (Abraham), federation of tribes (Moses) to a nation (David) and it culminating in the Covenant of Jesus. That's why I truly believe the question is “what I am becoming” not “what do I have to do”.

Today's passage is clearly about relationships. We are still looking at Jesus' sermon on the mount in Matthew. In this passage, Jesus talks about anger, adultery, divorce, and oaths. Jesus is trying to help us to see that living this way, with integrity, thoughtfulness, care and intentionality, is living a more abundant life. I think Jesus does this and I believe that scripture speaks about our relationships so much because God, the one who sought relationship with creation, cares about our relationships. Relationship matters and God wants ours to be strong and good and healthy. It is good for us to take stock of how our relationships are going, to consider if we are living in the way God has called us to live – not because we are supposed to, but because it leads us to an incredibly abundant life.

**Do You  
Feel Called  
To Serve?**

*"For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45*

We are in need of volunteers for our

**Sacramental Outreach Ministry**

**Lector Ministry**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

If you are keen to serve please contact us at  
[joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com)

## PRAY

We pray for those who died recently.

- ✕ Fr. John Sherrington CP
- ✕ Arthur (Larry) Whitehead
- ✕ Roger Norman

## REMEMBER

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time

**Bro Bernard Conolly CP**  
Gerry Burke  
Pat Timoney  
Jim Lyons  
Jose Chacko  
Olive Lee



## MASSSES

**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)



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 £1,156. Thank you very much.



# SO ALIKE AND YET SO DIFFERENT!

*St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Therese of Lisieux*



PASSION  
LED US  
HERE

It is striking when we look at the life and spirituality of St Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows, that eleven years after he died in Italy, a new saint, St Therese, was born in France to live an equally short life and to also die at 24.

Both were born in comfortable circumstances and to large families. Gabriel, baptised as Francis, was the 11th of 13th children and Therese was 1 of 9. Both families experienced the tragedy of young deaths. In Therese's family, there were three infant losses and in Francis', there were two. Both saints lost their mothers at the tender age of four, and had older sisters who stepped in.

Francis was liked by his peers. Where as Therese was a victim of school bullying. He took great pride in his appearance and was sociable - a ladies' man who had romantic involvements, including a possible engagement, prior to becoming the Passionist. At an early age of 15 Therese entered Carmel. Francis, on the other hand despite earlier promises, resisted religious life. Tragic events had traumatised Francis as a young man - Two of his brothers died, (one by suicide) and he himself narrowly escaped death while hunting. His sister, who had taken on the role of his mother, also died suddenly of cholera. Francis finally gave in to an 'interior voice' to pursue a religious vocation after seeing an icon of Mary in a procession.

While Therese was welcomed into the order by her older sisters who were already in Carmel, poor Francis had to deal



with his father, his brother (a Dominican) and an uncle, a (Capuchin) opposing his entry into religious life. But he persisted.

Passionist life in those days was very similar to the life of Carmelite nuns. Both Gabriel and Therese had long periods of common prayer, meditation, silence and solitude following strict regimens, with regular fasting and abstinence. Therese developed a deep devotion to the Passion, especially the Holy Face, and Gabriel was drawn to a deep love of Mary in her sorrows. Both practised a spirituality of the 'Little Way'. They saw their religious life as a means to holiness by doing little things well. Their small acts of charity were not done out of personal strength but rather a poverty, and sacrificial love that allowed God's grace to work through them.

Their short lives were hidden behind a cloistered life and they both died of tuberculosis at a young age - Gabriel was 23 and Therese was 24. Gabriel had destroyed his diary out of humility but Therese left her, 'Story of a Soul' and some poems that led to her being named the youngest Doctor of the Church. Their selfless obedience to the "Rule", their quiet martyrdom united them with the obedient sufferings of Jesus to his Father.

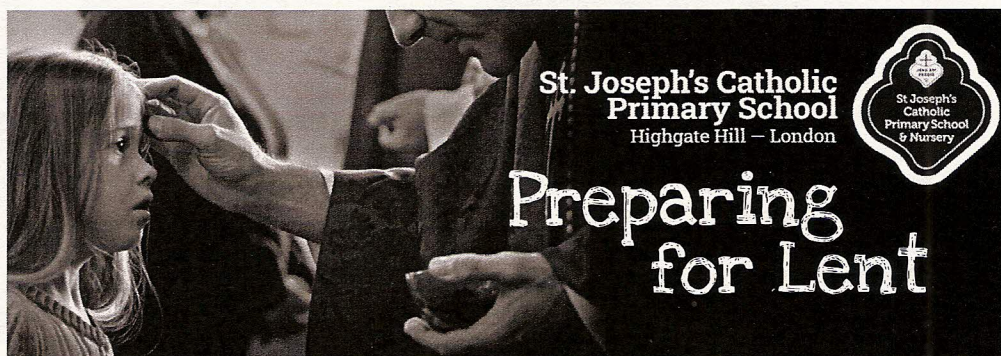
What the world could not see, God manifested later to the world in the abundant miracles that emerged through their intercessions.

**Fr. Tiernan Doherty CP**



## Lent Groups

Details of the ecumenical Lent Groups meeting this year are available in the porch. There are a range of courses with daytime or evening meetings to choose from. Courses begin mainly in the week of 2nd March, with one starting on 27th February, so please pick up a leaflet and sign up on the list in the porch soonest. St Joseph's Group will be studying the new York Course "Superstar", meeting in the Red Room, 10.45am for 11am on Tuesdays, beginning 3rd March.



This week at St. Joseph's... It has been a very busy week in the school! We have welcomed Fr. George to Year 4 and Lavender Class held a prayer service led by the children.

Firstly, he came to talk to Year 4 about their learning in Religious Education. The children already knew quite a bit about a piece of scripture known as The Beatitudes so Fr. George told them a very captivating story about a little girl in an orphanage. This little girl used The Beatitudes during her time there, especially during difficult times, to help her live how Jesus wanted her to. Fr. George also taught the children that God is the greatest Beatitude because he has large hands and a large heart to hold, keep and love us all.

On Thursday, our Year 6 Lavender Class had a beautiful prayer service. The theme was 'Preparing for Lent'. The children had discussed ideas and written prayers based on their own Lenten journey this year. They decided that, rather than give things up, it would be better to use this period to do good for others. The children sang and led the service with reverence and calm. Thank you Fr. George, and thank you to all the parents who attended the Prayer Service.

*Emma Cousins, Assistant Headteacher*