



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)

9th October 2016 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

News From Our Family in Haiti

Considering our links with Fr. Rick in Haiti over the last number of years, I think it only appropriate to give over our front page this week to catching up on how the hurricane has affected them. This is an edited report from Fr. Enzo, who is working with Fr. Rick at present -

After a first attempt yesterday to fly out to Jeremie, which was aborted after ten minutes due to bad weather, we were able to fly out by helicopter this morning to reach Dame Marie, where the St Luke Foundation for Haiti is present with schools and clinics. We had to go by helicopter because the main bridge to go to the southwest part of Haiti was washed away by the hurricane. The helicopter turned slightly inland to reach Dame Marie, where the eye of the hurricane passed. I remember visiting previously the past two years, and remember that compared to the rest of the country the province of Grand Anse had very lush vegetation. What struck me immediately was to see how Hurricane Matthew chopped acres and acres of trees.

When we arrived to Dame Marie, we saw houses spread throughout the vegetation without their roofs, and the rivers grown three times their size. It was heartbreaking. When we were approaching Dame Marie, it was hard to understand even what we were looking at arriving by helicopter. From the air we could see the roof of the parish church blown away and some of the houses, but we saw many colors. Getting closer, we saw that it was clothes hanging everywhere to dry after all those days of rain.

We landed on the football field. We are well known in the area, and Nebez (one of their staff) is originally from there. The pilot gave us 15 minutes on the ground because of the weather conditions. As we landed we were surrounded by hundreds of people who began to clap hands, sing and praise God for our arrival. It was almost like they were visited by God. More than bringing food, blankets, clothes or water, I think today it was very important to them to know that they were not abandoned, they are not alone and that they belong to a bigger family. When we left they knew that we will return because of the relationship we have built there and that has always involved the local community.

On our way back to the helicopter it was amazing to see women washing clothes, cooking, drying the corn or the rice in the sun, to see the notebooks and books of the children drying in the sun hoping to go back to school as soon as possible. Before we left, we prayed with the people. They said that our houses have been destroyed, our lives have been disrupted, our trees and crops have been chopped off, but we are all alive, and this is already a grace. From Dame Marie we took off to go to La Serengue to visit the community which is home of the St Luke foundation St Augustine school, recently inaugurated in the past year. When we approached by air and saw the school roof blown away, it really broke our heart. Thank God the water tower remained standing. Even here when we arrived on the field, people from every corner came jumping, singing and clapping their hands calling Nebez their "papa." Walking with them up to the school, we could see the poor houses made of mud and wood washed away. Only one person died in the community there, thank God. But it was heartbreaking to see the people with houses destroyed, built so poorly and with such poor materials to begin with. When we landed in the football field, the people recognized the Bishop and started to run towards him. It was beautiful to see. What came to mind was when Jesus said "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me" (Jn 10:14).

It is an obligation to have been the eyes and ears on behalf of our friends and supporters who are so concerned for those affected by this disaster, and now to be their voice to you on their behalf. These are people who are already so vulnerable of being invisible to the outside world, and I am humbled today to have had the chance to help share their story.

The Haiti Fund boxes are still at the back of the Church.

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - Leyla Baulackey, Pa Joe Buckley; **and for those who have died recently** – Agnes Murphy (funeral 11.00am Thursday 27th October, reception 5.30pm Wednesday), Perry Clune, Benedicta Oti, Sarah Grealish; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Dan Murphy, Ida Webster.

The First Holy Communion Program begins Today:

Our First Holy Communion Program is starting this Sunday, 9th October. There are close on 60 candidates this year, and we pray that this whole period of preparation, as well as the actual celebration itself –next June – will be a very special time for them and their families. This is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the candidates, and involves major 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 this Sunday 9th October at 11.00am in the Red room of the Monastery.

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.

CAFOD Fast Day:

CAFOD Harvest Fast collection will be taken after Masses this weekend. If you are a taxpayer you can increase the value of your donation by completing the Gift Aid form on the collection envelope.

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.

Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 19th November:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 19th of November which, believe it or not, is only six weeks away. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls – thank you to those of you who have contributed already. But also we 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 finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,654. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

St. Joseph's Primary School:

St Joseph's Primary school would like to invite you to one of their open mornings; **Tuesday 18th October** or **Tuesday 22nd November**. Registration and refreshments from 9:15am. All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available from the school office or to download from the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/>

St. Gabriel's Pilgrimage to Aylesford:

Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory from St. Gabriel's Church, Archway on Saturday 15th October, Depart St. Gabriel's 9:30am, depart Aylesford 5.00pm. Coach fare: £12.00 for adults, 6.00 for children. Contact Mary Aherne on 020 7263 9217, Bernie Shevlin on 020 7561 9025 or Parish Office 020 7272 8195. Seats will be reserved upon payment. Please bring packed lunch.

Caritas Prisoners Support:

Caritas Westminster are holding an event to promote volunteering with prisoners, ex-offenders and their families. Come along to hear about the work that goes on in prisons and how you can get involved. All welcome. Tuesday 11th October, 6-8pm, Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave, London SW1P 1QW. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP To caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk