



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 (pfc44@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)

5th November 2017 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Special People

Aren't mothers really wonderful people? But, before we get on to that, a word about the children. One of the major drawbacks of all the holidays that people seem to have nowadays is that there are so many Sundays when we have relatively few children at mass, and hence have no First Communion classes or Junior Liturgy. Apart from the difficulties that this gives the teachers in trying to complete their programs within the limited number of classes available to them, I have to admit that one does really miss having the young people around the place! They give such an atmosphere of liveliness and cheer. It's delightful to come down on a Sunday morning and see their happy smiling faces – it gives one's heart a lift.

I know, that sounds a little bit over the top. I can hear many of you parents saying "but you didn't see them a short while earlier as we were trying to get them out of bed and ready for church on time – there weren't many happy smiling faces then, we can assure you!" But of course not – you know they don't want to spoil you altogether! Those smiling angelic faces are the reward you get when you are well behaved! OK, OK, I'm joking – but, that said, you've got to admit that the children who come to St. Joseph's are special, and they do bring their own life and spirit to the Parish. We pray that they will long retain their innocence, simplicity and magic!

Which reminds me of the story - appropriate for the month of November, when we remember in a special way our dear departed - of the group of little children who found a dead robin. One of the children was the minister's son, and he knew that where there was a death, there was a funeral service! So they got themselves a small cardboard box as a coffin, and placed the body carefully inside. They then dug a hole and got everything ready for the graveside ceremony. It seemed only natural to choose the minister's son to perform the final rites, and with appropriate dignity he intoned his version of what he thought his father always said at gravesides: "Glory be, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes!"

In our gospel today we find a group of people who have dug an entirely different kind of hole for themselves! These are the group who see themselves as the teachers of the people in the ways of righteousness, but don't think to put into practice what they preach! These are people who are not really interested in the teachings of the bible. They simply like the fame and attention that comes from being regarded as important in the community. These are the ones who exalt themselves but will end up being humbled. Jesus, on the other hand, invites us to be truly humble – like those innocent and simple children? – and in that way we will find ourselves being exalted – rising above the level to which our society would often have us sink.

"And what was that stuff about mothers at the top of the page" I hear you asking – "you haven't mentioned them since!" Nothing – I just thought it would be nice to say it, and not simply wait until Mother's Day! And, while I'm at it, fathers are not bad, either, even the ones who have no children!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Oliver Columb, Chris Long; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Michael Jacoby (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 8th November), Margaret Larkin (funeral 11.30am Saturday 11th November, Reception 5.30pm Friday), Mary Healy (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 22nd November); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Damian Oparah, Netta Windle, Peter McCaffery, Mary & Martin Joyce, Robert Marchant, Agnes McCormack, Margaret & Edward Fogarty, Joe O'Brian, Michael Greaney, Rosemary Warhurst.

Christmas Bazaar – November 25th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 25th of November, now only three weeks away. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall. Thanks to the many of you who have contributed already. *** **New this year – BBNWT:** Is your wardrobe full of clothes and shoes you have bought but never worn and still have their tags on? If so please consider donating them to our bazaar for our **Bought But Not Worn with Tags** stall! Please bring your goods for stalls **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so that we can start sorting (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected). 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, whose email address is 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.

Grand Raffle:

Whether you can manage to come to the Bazaar or not, you can still support us by buying tickets for the Raffle - the tickets are now on sale at only £1 each for the Grand Raffle which will be held on the day.

Coffee Morning This Sunday:

We're having our Parish Coffee Morning this Sunday, 5th November, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00 am. Mass. This is a good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish. All are welcome to relax for a while in the Red Room and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

St. Joseph's School Open Morning:

St Joseph's Primary School will be holding another Open Morning on Thursday, 16th November. During our open morning full tours of the school will be available and members of the Senior Leadership Team will welcome prospective parents at 9:15am for Registration and refreshments and will be available to answer any questions after the tours. No need to book, just come along. Should you be unable to attend the open morning, individual tours can be arranged throughout the year by emailing the office with a suggested day and time to office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – 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

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,448. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

100 Club Results:

The October Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 106 and the winners were: £400 Martha Casey (163), £100 Caitriona Kelly (131), £50 K. Redmond (144). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The November draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 26th November. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, is starting on November 8th. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings in the Red Room at 7.15 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com.

Adoremus Liverpool 2018: *(Being inserted for the last time – we need to give numbers to the Diocese.)*

A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for 7-9 September 2018. The highlight of the weekend will be the gathering of 10,000 pilgrims in the Echo Arena on the Saturday, at which the Cardinal will lead us in Adoration, and he and Bishop Robert Barron are scheduled to speak. There will also be a Theological Symposium on the Friday, and Procession and solemn Masses in the Metropolitan Cathedral on the Sunday. Our Parish has been allocated **seven** places which need to be confirmed **immediately**, so anyone who might be interested on any of the days should contact Fr. Pat **as soon as possible**. Places allocated on a first come first served basis. More information can be obtained at www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events.