



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

e-mail: [joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com) : website: [www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat ([pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)) Fr. George ([gaskoloth@hotmail.com](mailto:gaskoloth@hotmail.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)

## 13th October 2019 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### THANK GOD!

Don't you love an optimist – the kind of person who is always positively hopeful? And I venture to suggest that it's not a bad attitude to have towards life – as long, that is, as it is tinged with realism. For some reason the other day – perhaps it was the fact that I'm returning to Paris in the near future that has possibly sparked off some reminiscing on my part – there came into my mind a memory of seeing a totally unrealistic optimist – you know the ones – you feel like saying to them “now, you're really pushing your luck”. I was on a very crowded metro at the time. She had just got on before me and so got the seat that I'm sure God really meant to be given to the elderly. But she showed no respect for my grey hairs! To be honest, I would have been both shocked and embarrassed if she had.

But then she did surprise me. I should explain that she was relatively young – certainly not more than seventy! (Only joking – I would guess she was somewhere around thirty of so – though you know how hazardous it is to guess a woman's age! By the way, that reminds me – did you know that ‘hazardous’ is one of only four commonly used words in the English language that end in ‘dous’? But I digress – back to the metro!) She rooted in her purse, and out comes an embroidery frame! (Don't get it confused with a needlepoint frame!) As people who engage in embroidery do, she had the needle enmeshed on the frame, ready for use.

With the frame balanced near her knee, she removed the needle and proceeded to attempt a stitch. I was quite fascinated – was she going to succeed? As the metro was bumping along between stations, she took multiple jabs – risky, as she hadn't got a thimble that I could see – without much success. At the station, so many people were knocking against her as they got on and off that she had no greater success. This proceeded for the duration of a few stations, and then she packed it away, and got off.

But in fairness to her she is not the only unrealistic optimist on our planet nowadays. Would it be unrealistic optimism on my part, I wonder, if I were to hope that I will never hear the word ‘Brexit’ again come November? I have my doubts! Would it be unrealistic optimism to hope that all the families involved in this year's First Communion program will be at mass every Sunday? I certainly hope it's not unrealistic. It would be nice to think that in teaching them of the importance of sharing in the table of the Lord, that they would see that teaching re-enforced by their family's life-style.

One might be forgiven for thinking that the Jesus of today's gospel was a bit of an unrealistic optimist. Could He possibly have imagined that if He cured ten people of leprosy there was any chance that all ten of them would arrive back to thank Him? No doubt that's what He would greatly have loved to have happened, but when it comes to understanding human nature, there is no greater realist than Jesus. And isn't that one of our greatest comforts – that He doesn't allow our lack of gratitude, and indeed our many other lacks, to get in the way of His generosity? But that doesn't excuse us from saying “Thank you” regularly. God knows, we have good reason to!

Let's be honest - not to do so would be horrendous, especially to a God whose love is so tremendous, even stupendous. (Of course you knew these were the other three!)

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**We pray for those who have died recently** – Michele Feely (funeral Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 11.30pm), Peter McNally, Laurence Vambe, Leo Hamilton, Mrs. Phil Gavin, Rose Watson, Kevin Rathour; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Margaret (Peggy) Coyle, Dan Murphy, Una Yates, David Stirling, Mary Faherty, Annie Cardiff.

### **First Holy Communion:**

Group B have their first session of the First Communion program this morning, 13th October. The groups have been allocated and details of schedules sent to parents/carers during this past week. The lists are also on the inner doors in the porch of the church. From now to the middle of next June about sixty children from our Parish will be taking part in the First Communion program. It is important that we bring the “little children” to Jesus. This is a special time, not just for these children and their families, but for the entire parish. We are all called upon to pray that this will be a year of special blessing for them, their families, and our parish.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,404. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

### **St. Joseph's School – spaces for 3 year-olds:**

We are very blessed as a Parish to have a truly wonderful Primary and Nursery School linked to our Parish. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has an individual identity that combines traditional values with a modern vibrant vision. The school is an Ofsted and Diocesan rated 'Outstanding' school, with an ethos based on faith, community and a true partnership between home, school, and Parish. St Joseph's is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support them in their faith development.

We currently have spaces in our Little Gems Nursery Class for children who have just turned 3. If you are interested in your child joining our Little Gems Nursery Class now or later on this academic year please pick up an application form at the back of the church or from the school office. [office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk). You are also more than welcome to come along to our open days either on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October or Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 9:15am, no need to book just come along.



### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd November. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2020 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms can be obtained by emailing [pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)

### **Parish Bazaar – November 16th:**

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 16th of November just **five 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. (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) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. 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, [felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Westminster Youth Ministry Summit:**

Join Westminster Youth Ministry for The Summit at Westminster Cathedral, an evening of inspiring speakers, live music and Eucharistic adoration. The Summit is aimed at 13-25yrs from across the diocese and will be on Friday 18 October, 6:30-8pm. The evening will include exposition and a talk by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, as well as inspiring speakers, including Brenden Thompson of Catholic Voices, and a live praise and worship band. Families, classes, youth groups, confirmation groups and whoever else are all welcome. For more information see <https://dowym.com/events/the-summit-westminster-cathedral/> : email [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk).

### **Caritas Food Collective: Volunteers needed:**

The Caritas Food Collective is a new project focused on tackling food poverty across the diocese. They are looking for volunteers to help for one day in one of seven locations in the diocese. Their first goal is to create holiday clubs to help children and families access nutritious, healthy food and enjoy fun activities during school holidays. The pilot will take place during the October half-term. Roles include catering, running children's activities, delivery driving and administration. Full training will be provided. To find out more please contact [cfc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cfc@rcdow.org.uk) / 020 7931 6077. Or visit [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/search-for-volunteering-opportunities.php](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/search-for-volunteering-opportunities.php).