



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 Sep 6

WORSHIP FOR THE JOURNEY

Since the Lockdown I took upon myself, among other things, the task of cleaning the front and surroundings of St. Joseph's. Very often during cleaning, I come across many people who pass through our property. One day, a couple who were walking with their dog to the Waterlow Park asked me where I am from. I took it as a courtesy question and I named the corner of the world where I am from! But it seemed like the wife was unsatisfied with my reply; with a more serious tone she asked, "No, no, which company are you from, I mean cleaning company?" With a smile I replied, "I am a priest from this church". Then both of them in a chorus apologised and explained that they were looking for some cleaners for their firm. I was flattered that they found in me a good cleaner!.

The Psalm for today is a call to worship God, our King because of His act in Creation. And again, we do this in recognition that God cares for us as a shepherd cares for His flock. As we move into verses eight through ten, it seems as if there's a change in the tone or even the purpose of the psalm. We move from this invitation to worship, to a warning or words of instruction about how not to act. The mention

of Meribah and Massah are reminders of times in the wilderness wanderings when the Israelites were so consumed with their complaints that they were unable to trust God as their Shepherd and King. As God remembers those who wandered in the wilderness, He uses very strong language for how he felt about them. God says, "For forty years I loathed that generation. And in my anger I swore, they shall not enter my rest." It can be hard to think about God loathing anyone. But it might be helpful for us to remember that this is poetry. In poetry, often you utilize strong language to paint pictures to put a certain point across. And that point is that those Israelites who wandered in the wilderness were consumed with their daily needs, so much so that they were blind to God's provisions for them. I wonder if the Psalmist is pointing us toward a connection between worship and trust. Could it be that when we worship God, our hearts are open, more open to trusting God, and we can more clearly see the ways that God provides for us each and every day? It seems as if we think our worship should follow a feeling of thankfulness or gratitude to God. But in all honesty, we all experience times in our lives, especially these days of pandemic, when things don't go well and we don't feel particularly thankful for the situation we are in. Could it be that in those times it becomes even more important to offer our worship to God so that we can then be more open to seeing and sensing the ways God is at work around us. And believe me, I belong to that 'Company'!



Parish Planned Giving

Over this weekend and the next, we will be conducting our annual parish Planned Giving drive. Members of the Finance Committee will be on hand at every Mass over these two weekends to facilitate the initiative and will be pleased to provide any assistance.

Our church and the Passionist Community that supports us, depend solely on our contributions. It receives no other support.

We strongly encourage you to give by Standing Order as this is the most efficient and effective way to give. You can set up a Standing Order via

- (i) a telephone call to your bank,
- (ii) online through your bank account, or
- (iii) completing a Standing Order Form.

Standing Order forms were distributed with the Newsletter last weekend. You should complete the form and take it to your bank. You can choose to give weekly, monthly, six-monthly or by making an annual contribution. If you did not get a form last week, spare forms are available with the Finance Committee.

If you do not have online access and cannot give by Standing Order, the usual boxes of envelopes will be available for collection.

Finally, you can boost your contribution with Gift Aid. For every £1 you give, we are able to claim an additional 25p from the government at no cost to you. Gift Aid Forms were also distributed last weekend. The completed forms should be handed in to a member of the Finance Committee. You should be a UK tax payer to be able to Gift Aid your contribution. If you did not get a form last week and are able to Gift Aid your contribution, please get a form from the Finance Committee.

Do you know how to pray?

Have you
Picked a wild flower
And felt a part of you
Dissolve before its beauty,
Or watched a sunset
And let the sinking fire
Rekindle in your soul?

Have you
Stopped when blackbird sang
And heard the universe respond
Or opened with the buds in Spring
And come alive in each new leaf?

Have you
Tasted greatness
On a mountain side
Or pure perfection
In the smallest wing?

Do you
Daily read a page
Of nature's story
And find there's more
Than human heart can hold?

Do you
Rest in richness,
Bringing hands together
In a thankful 'yes'?

Do you know you pray?
Marian Thérèse Burke SUSC





Thank
you

Christian Stewardship

Last week's collection amounted to £610. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thank you very much for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

Thanks for keeping your Face Coverings on!

CHURCH CLEANERS

Do you have one hour to spare once a month? Join one of our friendly church cleaning teams for polishing, hoovering, light mopping, and good company to keep our church looking in good order. All help welcome and appreciated.

For more information contact the parish office at joseph.highgate@gmail.com



BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT MASS

Booking a place is easy! Please click on the following link and choose a Mass time:

**[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk
/highgate/events/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/)**



A link is also available via the parish website.

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 7PM

Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12 NOON & 7PM

Weekdays: 9:30AM

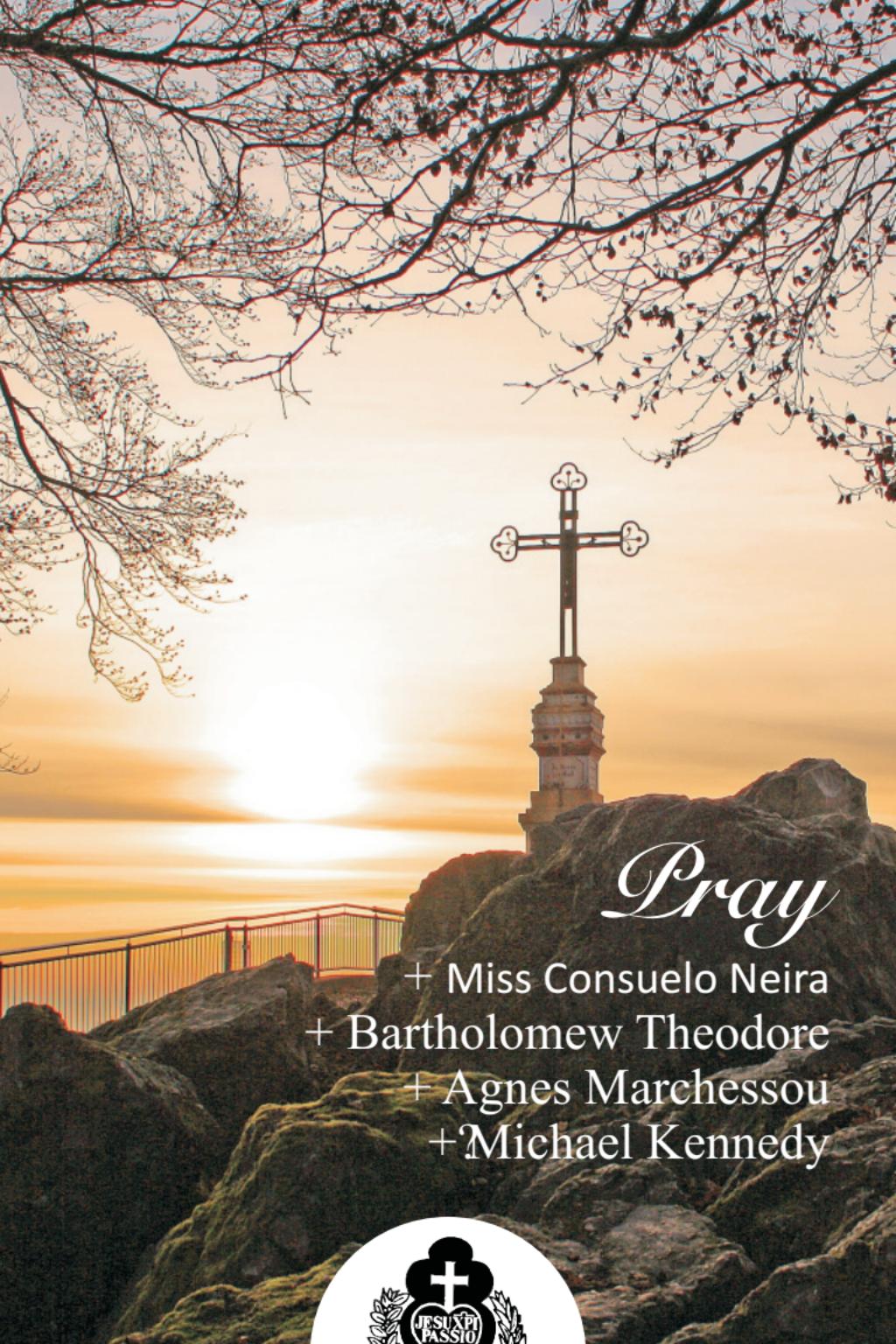
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday

10AM - 10:30AM, 6:30PM - 6:45PM

Weekdays

Immediately after Mass (On request)



Pray

+ Miss Consuelo Neira
+ Bartholomew Theodore
+ Agnes Marchessou
+ Michael Kennedy



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