



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)

25th December 2016 – The Feast of Christmas



*The entire Passionist community in St. Joseph's
wish you every happiness at this Christmas time.*

May your homes be filled with His Peace

And may 2017 be a year full of blessings for all.

Thank you for your very kind and generous support throughout this past year.

Here At Last!

By this time you're probably very happy to have all the preparations over, and are ready for the actual celebrations – religious and secular. No more shopping, or Christmas card writing. Just that Christmas dinner to be cooked, and the challenge of left-overs for the following few days! And you may have noticed in the midst of the mayhem that the days have started stretching again – so in reality we're heading once more towards the long summer evenings! It is only right that Christmas occurs at this time of the year. It is above all a feast of hope – hope brought to a world long ago by a Baby born to a simple couple, in an animal's feeding-trough, hailed by simple shepherds, but acclaimed by the angels of heaven. Think of all the hopes we've invested in our relationships, especially our families and loved ones. The Lord's coming has, in a sense, endorsed those hopes. He promises that His Coming, His participation in those hopes, brings the assurance that with His help they will be fulfilled. All we need do is make sure that He really is part of our family, that He really is counted among our loved ones! That's our prayer, our hope, this Christmas.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Maria Olsen (funeral 10.30am Wednesday 28th December), Margaret Dunne (funeral 12 noon Friday 6th January), Ellen Broderick, Kathy O'Brien, Edwin Hedge; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Pat Foran, Johnny Bulbrook, Ethelreda Carlisle, Seamus Morris, Margaret Lynch, Francis Goffart.

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Christmas, New Year Schedule:

Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th Bank Holidays, Mass at 9.30am only.

Saturday 31st /Sunday 1st January: Masses at the usual week-end times.

Monday 2nd January Bank Holiday, Mass at 9.30am only.

Giving Tree:

Our Giving Tree has once again evoked a wonderful response. Thank you most sincerely for your wonderful generosity in supporting our two very worthy causes – the Cardinal Hume Centre and our local branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The gifts for the Centre have already been delivered, and the SVP Society are busily distributing their hampers to the needy in our area. We won't see the many joyful faces of those who will benefit from your kindness – but be assured, they are massively appreciated. May God reward you for bringing so much joy into the world – which of course is the whole meaning of Christmas.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,639. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

Are you ready to Volunteer and make a difference in Lourdes?

Every year, the Diocese of Westminster takes a pilgrimage to Lourdes in the French Pyrenees. They bring a large number of sick pilgrims to Lourdes and rely on the help of people like you to care for them. If you are **between 16 and 18**, you can serve as a 'Red Cap', helping people in wheelchairs and taking part in the processions and many other tasks. Please contact Katrina Lavery at katrina.lavery@clovershipping.com if you would like to learn more. If you are **over 18**, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Some of the sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in the Accueil St Frai. It is well-equipped for their care and they are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteers. The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. This includes helping the pilgrims get up and ready in the morning; making large amounts of tea; helping to keep the wards clean; taking the pilgrims to various pilgrimage events; shopping and socialising with them; and putting them to bed at night. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends. Although many people come back year after year, at least half the helpers will be working in the St Frai for the first time, and training is organised. Helping in Lourdes is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. If you're interested in helping please email Nick Leonard and team at westminsterstfrai@gmail.com

Prayer Groups:

The Christian Meditation Group will not meet over the Christmas period. The group will resume on 13th January 2017. The Charismatic Prayer Group also will not be meeting during the Christmas break. Meetings resume at 7.30. pm on Tuesday 10th January 2017.