



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

## 17th February 2019 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Applause of Heaven

In Matthew's gospel, we have a passage of scripture we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Gospel for today, Luke 6:17-26 sounds similar to parts of that passage, but we call it the Sermon on the Plain. Are these two separate sermons? Or is it the same sermon Jesus preached in two different locations? When we are trying to understand what these teachings mean for us and our lives today, we ask different questions.

Jesus begins His teaching by saying, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Now in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for yours is the kingdom of God." Plenty of ink has been spilled as scholars have tried to debate what the differences in these two statements might mean. When I think about these two statements I am reminded of a book I always cherish by Gustavo Gutierrez called 'On Job'. Gutierrez is known as the father of liberation theology which is a theology articulated by people who live on the margins of society. In this book, Gutierrez makes a strong case that in scripture God demonstrates a preference for the poor. But he also demonstrates that we are all poor in some ways. Some of us may be poor in spirit, and some of us may simply live in poverty; and then there are those who are poor in conscience and in morality. God's concern is for our poverty.

I think this is because it is in the places of our poverty that God can meet us most easily because these are the places in our lives where we experience need. It is at the point of our need that we can most easily learn what it means to rely on and connect with God. For the person who is so low that they might say they are poor in spirit can choose to look for God's help and for God to lift them up. For those who can never seem to get out of the cycle of living month to month and paycheck to paycheck, this is the place where they can learn to rely on and connect with God. For the person who has a poverty of morality and conscience, when they realize it they can find God's help in that space. None of this means that we don't do things to help ourselves, but it does challenge us to see where our own poverty is and use that as a way to connect with and rely on God.

The same is true for when Jesus says, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." When we are hungry and sad we come face to face with our need. And then Jesus flips the teaching and says, "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep." The independence we experience when we live with abundance makes it more difficult for us to be honest with ourselves about the ways we need God. It challenges us to look for and ask questions about our need. When we read this passage, it can sound like the news is good for those who have a need and not so good for those who live in abundance. But the key is that we all have need – the question is, can we see it and feel it and let it humble us enough to relinquish our independence and our need to control.

Walk the Talk

- Why do we not list our weaknesses on our resumes?
- In what ways might it be helpful to admit our weaknesses before sharing our strengths?
- What does this teach about how God looks at the world and works in it?

Fr. George, C.P.

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - John O'Brien; we remember those who have died recently – William Patrick Mangan (funeral 12.30pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February), Clive Ellis (funeral 12.30pm Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February), Monica Van den Berg, Lisa McCarthy, Robert Evans, Eileen Healey, Tom White; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Bro Bernard Connolly CP, Vera Haykin, Josephine McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Helen O'Leary, Pat Timoney.**

### **100 Club – New Members needed!**

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our membership appeal last week. Over the last nearly 30 years, St. Joseph's 100 Club has contributed over £300,000 towards the cost of maintenance and improvements to our church. For £10 a month you enter a draw, with prizes currently of £400, £100 and £50 with the other half of the proceeds going to parish funds. There is still time to join up for the February draw so if you'd like to know more you can pick up a leaflet in the porch or email Ed Tierney at joseph.highgate@gmail.com

### **Flame Congress:**

Flame, the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK, takes place on 2nd March 2019 at Wembley Arena. It is a great celebration of Catholic faith, in a vibrant atmosphere, full of joy, with content presented in a way which resonates for young people. The day will include video input from Jean Vanier, a reflection on the Synod on Young People from Archbishop Eamon Martin, speakers addressing the issue of mental health and wellbeing, and Adoration which will be introduced by Rise Theatre's drama 'Jesus is here' along with a homily by Cardinal Vincent. Tickets are available from Westminster Youth Ministry at the reduced price of £20, which includes a t-shirt. For more information or to book tickets, please contact dominiccunliffe@rcdow.org.uk.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,526. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we are very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

### **Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019:**

Proclaim Spring Gatherings are for laity and clergy from Parishes, Schools, Youth and chaplaincies and all who are involved or interested in local evangelisation. The events are free, with coffee & tea etc. provided. Please bring your own lunch. With Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 9.30am – 3.00pm 2 Lukin Street E1 0AA. To register e-mail Warren Brown at [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk) Telephone contact is 0207 798 9152

### **Lent Groups:**

Details of the ecumenical Lent Groups meeting this year are available in the porch. There is a range of courses with daytime or evening meetings to choose from. Courses begin in the week of 11<sup>th</sup> March so please pick up a leaflet and sign up on the list in the porch as soon as possible. St. Joseph's Group will be studying the new York Course *Daring to see God now*, meeting in the Red Room, 10.45 for 11.00am on Tuesdays, beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year the World Day of Prayer will be on March 1st and St. Joseph's will be hosting the local service prepared by the women of Slovenia. It will be held in the Red Room at 11.00am. All welcome.

### **Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:**

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019. £649.00 per person sharing. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

### **Bright Stars Play Group:**

The St Joseph's Parish Bright Stars Stay and Play for 0-5 year olds is now back during the school term. It runs on Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00am in the parish centre. Lots of fun activities and arts and crafts. They are also looking for more volunteers to help at the stay and play. Please call Lucy on 07798 797 390 or email [stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsbrightstars@gmail.com) if you would be interested in volunteering.

### **Works in Church:**

This present phase of work in the church is proceeding satisfactorily. There is of course no way of doing them without a considerable amount of dust being created, especially with regard to the seating. The firm doing the work do a very good job of cleaning as much as feasible each Friday afternoon, but do please be aware that there is likely to be some dust about. Some of the staining and varnishing has begun, so please be extra careful that where you are seated is completely dried. We ask for your continued understanding while this work is being undertaken. I'm sure that when it's all completed you will agree that it has been worth the temporary inconvenience.

## **WE PRAY FOR . . .**

**(17th February)**

### **the sick and housebound of our Parish:**

John O'Brien,  
Thomas Flynn,  
Kacper Duda,  
Mike Walsh,  
Gale Willner,  
Kevin Redmond,  
Jennifer Roberts,  
Oliver Columb,  
Anthony Boyle,

Eileen Riley,  
Clive Nero,  
Chris Beazley-Long,  
Bridget McDonnell,  
Isabel Pycroft,  
Ita Watters,  
William Pender,  
Anne Bergin.

### **We remember those who have died recently:**

William Patrick Mangan,  
Clive Ellis,  
Monica Van den Berg,  
Lisa McCarthy,  
Robert Evans,  
Eileen Healey,  
Tom White.

### **We remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time:**

Bro Bernard Connolly CP,  
Vera Haykin,  
Josephine McCarthy,  
Michael McCarthy,  
Helen O'Leary,  
Pat Timoney.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(17th February)**

Details of this year's Lent Study groups are available in the porch this weekend. You are invited to pick up a leaflet and sign up for your preferred group as soon as possible.