



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. George (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)

## 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Instruments of Peace

Happy New Year! Well, at least Happy New Church Year. Each year as we all celebrate Advent — that time when we are lighting the candles each Sunday in the wreath, we are also beginning a new cycle in our church year. And we begin our year with hope. And I think that makes sense, because one of the important things Christianity teaches us is how to wait with hope. All the readings for today are throbbing with hope. As we read the Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 122 - it seems that the author has been invited on a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem. Upon arriving, he is aware of the awesomeness of the place. It is a place with protective walls, it is the place where kings from the line of David have sat on their thrones, it is a place where judgements and justice has been handed out, it is a place of safety. The psalmist seems encouraged by the opportunity to be in this place. He is expressing gratitude for the journey, and he is praying for peace, for the place and for the sake of his family and friends back home. The temple was located in the heart of Jerusalem, which was the capital of the promised land. This means that this place had become for the people of Israel both the political and the religious centre. Jerusalem was the place meant to provide justice for the people and the temple was the place that provided guidance for their faith community.

Yet, even as I read these words about this place, I am acutely aware that there are so many places in our world that do not enjoy the strength of the temple walls to keep them safe or the justice that comes from a fair government. This was true then and it is still true today. There is a sense that the temple provided a picture of what could one day be a reminder of the peace and security that is possible when we live in the ways God has called us to live.

Advent is the season of the church year that we practice waiting and anticipating Christ's coming again to bring about the new world and the new heaven. It is a time in which we wait with pregnant longing for a time when all the world looks like the place this Psalmist describes. In the waiting time, we are called on to manifest this vision in our lives and as the body of Christ we are called to live together in a way that makes peace and safety happen in our world for all people.

What is your favourite traditional church hymn and why?

Why do you go to a place of worship on a regular basis?

What about your current experience of worship make you glad?

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND JESSE TREE LITURGY

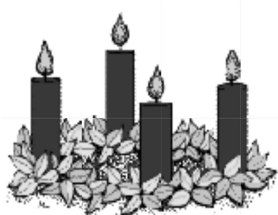
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of hope.

We light this candle today to remind us that He is our hope.

Let us pray:

Jesus Christ, we seek you through our Advent journey. Fill the darkness of our world with your light and fill the emptiness of our hearts with your love. Make your home among us; and receive us into your own great Family Tree of Jesse. Make us a people of hope and hospitality.

**Response: Jesus Christ, we wait for you. Jesus Christ, we welcome you.**



**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** – Jenny Roberts; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Christopher Michael Mackey (funeral 11.30am Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December), John Connor (funeral 1.00pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December); **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Daniel Lucitt, Thomas Hearn, Caren Chow, Dolores Cooke, Doris Mackintosh;

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,275. 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.

**Christmas Bazaar:** Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Bazaar. The final sum raised was **£3,879**.

**Fr. Pat's Collection:** The collection for Fr. Pat's leaving gift amounted to £1,195. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Farewell Fr. Pat:**

Thank you to everyone who came last Sunday to show your appreciation for Fr. Pat as he leaves us for Paris. Special thanks to all those who gave their time and energy to organise the occasion, and to everybody who contributed such delicious food.

### **Welcome, Fr. George:**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December Bishop Nicholas Hudson will be attending 6.30pm Mass to formally install Fr. George as our new Parish Priest. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass and offer him your prayers and support.

### **Giving Tree:**

Once again we have our Advent Giving Trees in the porch. For those of you who haven't come across this exercise before, the idea is simple, and very much in the proper spirit of Christmas. Our trees are decorated with lots of tags, on each of which is written a suggestion for a Christmas gift to be given to the poor or disadvantaged of our city. We invite you to take a tag from the tree, and then during the week to purchase the item suggested. Items should be gift-wrapped (except food items) and brought back to church with the tags attached stating what is in each parcel (the tags will be removed before being given to people.) We particularly invite you to encourage your children to become involved. It's a very practical way to help them appreciate how lucky they are, and maybe spend a little of their own pocket money on a present for a child who is much less well-off.

### **Living Crib:**

This year's Living Crib procession will be next Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 3.00pm in Pond Square. This Highgate tradition is a lovely way of preparing for Christmas. We have children taking the roles of Mary and Joseph, and we have a real live donkey! We particularly welcome any local angels, shepherds and wise men –and wise women! All are invited to simply turn up on the day appropriately dressed. The procession ends here at St. Joseph's with a brief candle-lit Carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

### **St Joseph's School Christmas Fair:**

Come and enjoy the fun on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3.15-6pm to celebrate Christmas at St Josephs School! See the poster in the church porch for more information.

### **International Christmas Concert:**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019, at 8.30pm, we will have an International Christmas Carols concert, with songs from all over the world, including Navidad Nuestra, written by the Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez, a suite of dances and songs typical of the Argentinian culture, about Nativity. The concert will be played by "St Joseph's Christmas Singers" and accompanied by "St Joseph's Players", including our cantor Marianne and our organist Alberto. Tickets will be available on pre-sale for £8, and on the door for £10, or online at: <http://navidadnuestrahighgate.eventbrite.com>. For information, please contact Marianne or Alberto.

### **Christmas Cleaning Day:**

Our next cleaning day will be at 10am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December to get the church looking good for our Advent and Christmas events (we hope to finish by 12pm). Everyone welcome, suitably fortifying refreshments will be served! Those who can be available on the day can either email [roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com](mailto:roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com), or just turn up on the day and join the fun.

### **100 Club:**

The November Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 125 and the winners were: £400 Caitriona Kelly(131), £100 Paula Waldron(162), £50 Geoff Taylor-Meade(11). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. As in previous years the December draw will be held early, before the Christmas holidays, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.