

Anthropause



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 July 12

“A sower went out wearing a face mask. . .”

Jesus might have told this parable: “A terrible sickness struck a village. The people were terrified of getting sick and wanted to know what to do.

“The doctor asked the people to wear face masks to protect one another. We will! they all said. Some did for a while, but they found the masks uncomfortable, and made it difficult to breathe, so they soon stopped wearing them.

“The rabbi asked the people to share their food with the poor and sick. We will! they all promised. But many became more and more concerned for their own needs and that of their families, so they kept their barns and larders full — and locked.

“The mayor asked the merchants to close their shops and innkeepers to close their taverns so people would not gather and spread the sickness. We will! they all agreed. They did so for a few days, but their profits dropped, and they could not pay their help, so, slowly, one by one, they quietly re-opened.

“Soon, the sickness took the lives of many in the poor village.

“But then there were the good folk who understood that wearing face masks protected others from the sickness, who kept their distance from one another so the sickness would not spread, (even though they missed one another terribly), who readily shared what they had with those who had little. Oh, it was very hard, and there were many days when they wanted to give up. But they persevered.

“Because of them, many people did not get sick and survived.

“Blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear,” Jesus would have said.

Anthropause is our own response to the coronavirus! And it is indeed a good measure of the “richness” of our faith and its potential for the “seed” of God's Word to take root and realize in our lives and in the world around us the harvest of justice and compassion that is the Kingdom of God.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's lower body and hands as they dig in reddish-brown soil. The person is wearing blue jeans and a yellow long-sleeved shirt. A yellow shovel is being used to move the soil. The background is blurred.

Oremus

Lord, we thank you for the words of Jesus that tell us of your unconditional love for us and your eagerness to reveal what we need to know about life and faith.

We are grateful for the Holy Spirit who continually speaks to us as we face difficult decisions, intimidating challenges, overwhelming problems, crippling doubts, mounting fears, enticing temptations and haunting guilt.

Your concern for our well-being and desire to lead us along our journey of faith are humbling. It is by your grace and steadfast love that we find abundant life on earth and the assurance of eternal life in heaven.

We confess however, we do not always listen as we should and follow your counsel. Often, the wise and loving seeds of truth you cast our way don't fall on the fertile ground.

Sometimes we ignore them. At other times we consider them only to choose another way. Far too often we let lesser pursuits consume our time, attention and energies.

When we do this, we choose deception over truth, self-indulgence over sacrifice, injustice over justice, exclusion over inclusion, greed over generosity, arrogance over humility, hate over love, revenge over forgiveness, hurting over healing and being served over serving.

Forgive us. Have mercy upon us.

Help us to make the changes we need to make so the soil in our hearts and minds will become fertile enough to receive and to follow your guidance. Show us what changes we need to make in our values, priorities, mindset, attitude, relationships and lifestyle to be as eager to hear from you as you are to speak to us.

And help us to be as faithful as you are in sowing the seeds of hope and healing to those around us. May we not grow weary in well doing as we plant seeds the Holy Spirit will nourish and cultivate.

In the name of the Master Teacher who modelled the need to speak and to listen with a loving heart and an open mind, Jesus the Christ. Amen.



An Unrepentant Optimist

Just a few words to thank you, other priests and all the lovely helpers for all the work preparing the first Mass after nearly few months. Everything was perfect ... the markings on the floor, we were ushered to our seats, the church looked lovely with candlelight and flowers – such a treat! So – big thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make it happen – first step toward a brighter future which is just around the corner! (I am an unrepentant optimist). Best wishes to you, other priests and all the helpers with much love and appreciation.

-Elzbieta

Welcome back!



It was such a joy to experience St Joseph's coming back to life with the public celebrations of Mass last weekend. To see people again and to say a quick Hello as we entered and exited our church. We thank the many volunteers who help at each Mass to make this possible. Sadly, we are subject, as is everyone giving a public service these days, to continuing restrictions but we are doing the very best we can and shall learn as we go

along. We have been advised that it will be necessary to keep a record of all those attending Mass. This is part of the national track and trace process with which it is imperative that we comply. There is also a limit on the number of people who can be indoors at any one time. We are, therefore, thinking about introducing an online booking system for attendance at Mass. We will of course hold some places for those who do not have access to the internet and the online booking system. As always, we need your help. The Archdiocesan IT department have recommended a system which is very easy to navigate. We need three to four people to volunteer to be on a rota to help with this process. One person, each week, will have to set it up on a Monday (about 15 minutes of time) and then email the link to Fr George once ready, to post the link for bookings on the parish website. On Friday, the list of attendees is to be forwarded to Fr George. It is a simple process, can be done from home and, really, should not take very long. Less than an hour or so each week, we believe. If you are able to help, please could you email **bettapires1503@gmail.com** or tel **07785925780**. Thank you for all that you do.

Betty Pires, Roni Collins, Fessahaye ZeMichael and Mirek Skrypak

GIVE



ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION IS
SUSTAINED BY THE
GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FAITHFULNESS
OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

We are here because of
your generosity.

Yes, we need **your support.**

We give because
God first **gave to us.**

When we give to what God cares about, we share in the work of building God's Kingdom. When we give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love.

If Christ is truly the centre of our lives, then giving to the church should be an outward reflection of an inward change, signifying that Christ is first in our lives.

Please visit our website and the portal 'Donate to Our Parish' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.

www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Members of the Parish Council

Nicholas Baumgartner
Jennifer Buckley
Roni Collins
Frances Doherty
Noreen Feeley
Cheryl Juckes
Frank Larkin
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Mirek Skrypak
Roxane Stirling
Ed Tierney
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Members of the Finance Committee

Mike Cassey
Elizabeth Millar
Betty Pires
Raymond Tran
Mirek Skrypak
Anna Waked

Parish Secretary

Edmund Tierney

Members of the Passionist Community

Fr. Tiernan Doherty, CP (Superior)
Fr. Thomas Kanjirathinkal, CP (Asst. Superior)
Fr. George, CP (Parish Priest)

Pray

- + Eleanor Teresa Frost
- + Michael Kennedy
- + Mr William Kirby.
- + Catherine Byrne

Remember

- + John Coathorpe
- + Julio Manuel
- + Danny McCarren



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