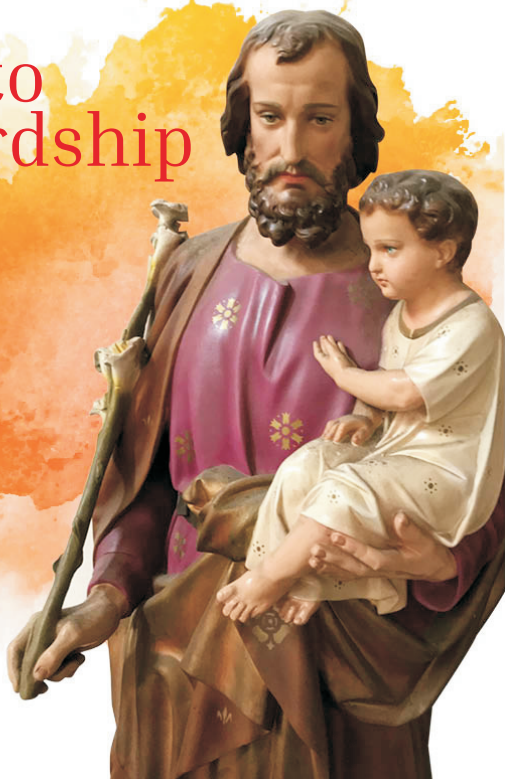


A Call to Stewardship



**A QUESTION
TO BE LIVED**



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 August 23

A Call to Stewardship

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents. God wants us to use and share these with others. Our parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners volunteering their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings. As stewards of this parish, we are each responsible for its continuity and upkeep and have a duty to pass it on to future generations.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been hard for everyone. During these difficult times, the income that St Joseph's receives has been significantly reduced. When places of worship were required to be closed by the government in March because of the pandemic, we were unable to launch the usual Planned Giving drive at Easter. There were also no Offertory collections for several months. Our parish and the Passionist community, who support us, do not receive funding from the Vatican, the Diocese or the Order. It depends on the generosity of its parishioners.

Many parishioners contribute through Planned Giving envelopes and loose cash. The parish also receives funds through Standing Orders. If you are not doing so already, we would encourage you to give by Standing Order. Giving by Standing Order is the simplest and easiest way to donate a regular weekly or monthly amount. It improves the regularity and consistency of church income, minimises the security risks involved in weekly cash banking, cuts stationery costs (dated envelope sets are fairly expensive to buy), helps the church to budget and manage its finances more effectively and bank statements provide an independent audit trail for HMRC and the auditors. It is also quick and easy to set up, is free of charge to both payer and payee

and you can increase or decrease your offering at any time by contacting your bank.

You can set up a Standing Order by a telephone call to your bank, online via your bank account or by completing a Standing order form and taking it to your bank.

Standing order forms will be distributed next weekend. They are also available to download via our website.

If you have the facility for internet/online banking, you can donate what you want and when you want. The parish bank account details will be on the Standing Order form which will be distributed next weekend. You will need the NAME, SORT CODE, and ACCOUNT NO. Please ensure you enter your own name in the reference box.

If you prefer to contribute by cash or cheque, your contribution can be dropped into the Collection Box in the porch as you exit the church after Mass.

The Planned Giving envelopes will of course be available for those who are unable to give by Standing Order. But we encourage you, if at all possible, to give by Standing Order

Whatever method you choose, please also consider Gift Aiding your donation. For

every £1 that you give, you can boost your donation by 25p via Gift Aid at no cost to yourself. Gift Aid is claimed by St Joseph's from the government. You should be a UK taxpayer and complete the Gift Aid. Gift Aid Declaration forms will also be handed out next weekend.

Over the first two weekends of September, members of the Finance Committee will be available after every Mass to assist with the process, collect the completed forms or answer any questions.

Any contributions that you make are greatly appreciated and will help to ensure that St Joseph's is able to continue with its mission and service to each and everyone of us as it has done for the past 165 years.

In the meantime, if we can be of any further assistance, we can be contacted via email as follows.

SJ.Highgate.FinanceCommittee@gmail.com

Finance Committee,
St Joseph's Church, Highgate



**A QUESTION
TO BE LIVED**

In the gospel for today Peter shares with us his recognition and realization that Jesus was more than just a man; that Jesus was indeed the Christ.

Jesus asks his disciples who others say that son of man is. They respond by saying that others say the son of man is John the Baptist or Elijah or even the prophets. This phrase son of man is an interesting one and in fact it predates Christianity. It's a phrase that has been used to refer to not only Jesus but the whole of humanity or even another person as we see in Ezekiel 37:3. It is a way of saying he is completely a man, a mere human creature in contrast to the Creator. As it's used in the context of Christianity it takes on a more messianic meaning when it is used to refer to Jesus. When we read the story, it is easy for us to hear Peter's confession of who Jesus is as something he was completely sure about. I know that whenever I heard the passage read Peter's words are always read with a great assurance. But I wonder how sure was Peter? Did he say these words with confidence or was he kind of trying them out for the first time? In Matthew's gospel this is the first time the disciples recognize that Jesus is more than a man. Now remember when they began to follow him they didn't really know what they were getting themselves in to. But as they

followed Jesus they grew in their understanding of who he was and what that meant for them. Peter in this moment got it right. He confessed that he knew there was something special about Jesus. So, who is Jesus to you or to me? When you are asked who Jesus is what do you say? More importantly what does it mean for you, for me to claim Jesus is the Christ and how does it impact our lives?

PRAYER OF SIMON PETER

Lord, you asked me to be your rock, and I am trying. It is hard to be solid, to be firm, to be one thing. A lot of times, I cannot tell what is the right thing to do, I don't know where to go next. I watched you in awe, but also in confusion. It took me a long time to have any understanding of why you said what you said, why you did what you did. Help me to keep listening to your words; help me to keep watching what you do. I want to be your rock, reliable, strong, whole. Something you can build on. Lead me when I am confused, teach me when I am ignorant, pull me back when I wander, chisel me into the shape you need me to take so that I can hold up my piece of the world you would like to build. Let me take my place, so well formed that the weight lies on my shoulders with ease. Lord, you asked me to be your rock; help me to do so. Amen.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

*Dear 2020 First Holy
Communicants and parents,
Greetings from Holy Joe!*

You are always in our thoughts and prayers. So, parents please continue to prepare the children at home by talking about your own faith and going through the text book provided. Living a Christian Life means living the way Jesus did. By looking at and listening to Jesus in the gospel stories and during the Eucharistic liturgy, we and those we teach can gradually come to know him and his message better. Jesus challenges us to be light for the world through our words and actions. In this programme we are using you will guide your children in this process introducing them to a lifelong practice of celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy.

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/>



A link is also available via the parish website.

Christian Stewardship

Last week's collection amounted to £710. 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.





Face Coverings

Face coverings will be mandatory
in Places of Worship from
Saturday 8th August 2020.

PRAY

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



St Joseph's Church,
Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE
Tel. 020 7272 2320
e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com
Fr. George (gaskoloth@hotmail.com)