



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)

4th September 2016 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reaching The Heights

You've very likely delayed reading this as you were confronted upon entering the church by the extraordinary sight of all the scaffolding. Yes, believe it or not, the process of painting the church has at long last got under way, after a mere 63 years! Even Fr. Chris has difficulty remembering that far back. What you see before you has taken the best part of two weeks to erect, so you will appreciate that it's going to take the guts of another two weeks to have the remainder put in place. Obviously for a complicated job like cleaning and painting the walls of such a high church, it's not easy to get an accurate estimate of how long it will take, but the best guess is that it will be quite a bonus if it's completed by Christmas – but it's more likely to go into January. So, get used to it!

As they say, you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs, so there is inevitably going to be a fair amount of inconvenience involved while the work is being undertaken. Among the more obvious ones are that our lighting and our sound systems are now being obscured by the scaffolding, so the church is quite clearly darker, and being able to hear people is a little more difficult. Once all the scaffolding is in place we will be doing our very best to have some temporary lighting and sound system installed for the duration of the work, but we ask you to please be patient, as this is complicated to achieve in a safe, effective and economic way.

Another factor – one that isn't immediately obvious while one is doing the planning – is that you can't have workers moving about on scaffolding without a considerable amount of dust and dirt falling on the floor and seating underneath, so please be aware that the further you keep away from the scaffolding the better the chance that you'll have a clean space to pray in (and clean clothes to go home in!). It would be even better if, for the duration of the work, we could manage to have a team of volunteers, on a Friday evening or Saturday morning, who would be prepared to wash down the seating in the church. We have done a bit of a trial run, and we are confident that if we had 20 volunteers (not necessarily the same ones every week) it could be comfortably made fit for use for Sunday in less than 15 minutes. So please

I am sure there is a lot more that you would like to know about the work, and I'm sure I will be returning to the topic many more times, but in the meantime feel free to contact me (it's more reliable by email) at any time if there's anything you want to discuss – or even better, help you want to offer!

Let me share a little co-incidence with you. We had a wedding in the church today, Saturday – obviously planned long ago. They had previously indicated they wanted to include a particularly meaningful non-bible reading. It was written by Seamus Heaney, and went as follows:- *Masons, when they start upon a building, Are careful to test out the scaffolding; Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points, Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints. And yet all this comes down when the job's done Showing off walls of sure and solid stone. So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be Old bridges breaking between you and me Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall Confident that we have built our wall.* The poem is called "Scaffolding"! (I think they got more than they bargained for!)

And our Gospel today? Basically, if you're setting out on a project, make sure you count the cost before you start. No comment!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Alice Ryan, Mary Agnes Nutting; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Arthur Anderson, Raymond Hogan, Eileen Hogan, Tom Webster, Mary Morissey, Thomas Carlisle.

Welcome Back:

It seems only the other day that we were looking forward to the holidays, and here we are having almost already forgotten how we spent them! Anyway, let me take this opportunity on behalf of all the community here to welcome you back, and also to extend a very warm welcome to the many new people who have come to our parish over the past few months. Whether you stayed at home, or travelled, I do hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable time and have your batteries re-charged as we face into a new school year.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs will be available in the porch of the church from next Sunday. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,306. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

Last Few Seats on Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, 17th October 2016 from Gatwick. £599 per person sharing. Price includes return airport transfer from parish, flights, 15kg bag, 5 nights in Knock House Hotel with breakfast and evening meal. Entertainment, heritage excursions and guided tours in Co. Mayo included. Limited single room supplement of £60. Contact Patricia anytime for on 01702 561757 - Mobile 07715 667 896. Go Trouvaille is an agent of Travel Assistance International – ATOL 4634.

Prayer Groups:

The Christian Meditation Group meets at 8.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, resuming on 2nd September. The Charismatic Prayer Group meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, resuming on 13th September. New members welcome for both groups.

Healing Mass:

You are invited to a Mass for Healing of The Family Tree here at St. Joseph's at 2.00pm on Saturday 24th September 2016. Please see poster in church porch.

Coffee Morning:

Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care nurses, in St. Joseph's Parish Centre on Sunday 18th September, from 10.30 am until 1.30pm. Please support this worthy cause.

Junior Liturgy:

The 'Junior' liturgy at the 10 mass will resume as soon as possible. We remind you that this is intended for children who have not yet made their First Communion. In order to facilitate them in having more time for their program, they will be leaving immediately after the opening hymn and greeting – so please make sure that they are all here in good time as late arrivals can be very disruptive.

100 Club Results:

The August Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 115 and the winners were: £400 Gillian Kaul (137), £100 Karl Mayer-Riekh (143), £50 Ita Watters (39). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The July draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 25th September. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Volunteers Urgently Needed:

We have been very blessed over the years that there have always been people prepared to sacrifice some of their time on about 12 Sundays of the year in order to prepare our young people for these 1st Communion. But we can't realistically expect the same people to be volunteering year after year and indefinitely, so it is important that we get some new people to replace those who can no longer serve the parish in this way. All necessary training and support will be provided to all volunteers. If you feel you could serve the Parish in this most important way, or if you would like to talk over the possibility, then please let me know at pfc44@yahoo.com – parents of children who will be making their First Communion or Confirmation next year, or retired teachers, would be particularly welcome.