



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE  
Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

## 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent In Between Times

Last week, John the Baptist intruded our season of Advent with his prophetic ranting. This week, we continue with Matthew 11:2-11. In this passage, John is on the scene again, but this time he is less certain about Jesus. He hears how Jesus is running his ministry and begins to wonder if he got it right; if Jesus really was the Messiah. We live in a time in which questioning God or Jesus is seen as a lack of faith. However, when we understand John's and the Hebrew understanding of who the Messiah would be, it all makes sense. You see, the Hebrew Bible's understanding of who the Messiah would be was that he would come as a strong king or even military leader to bring about peace for the people of Israel. Even John likely had this idea about who the Messiah would be. But Jesus did not live up to these expectations in many ways and so, John becomes worried he backed the wrong guy. We too live in the in between time much like John did. We live between the promises of God and the fulfilment of those promises. At times we have looked around the world and wondered, God won't you come now?

Jesus' response to John's doubts is to share with him all that he is doing — and the reality is, Jesus' work rarely looks like we expect it is going to look. John was expecting a kingly and impressive guy to come and instead, Jesus came to care for the deaf, the blind, the poor, and the ill. And then Jesus says, "blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." Jesus came to care for the ones that everyone else is ready to look over and forget. But Jesus unapologetically says, 'this is what I am doing, if you want to be a part of what I'm doing, stop getting bogged down in what I'm not doing and get to work with me.' As people of faith, Advent reminds us that our assignment is to live in the in between times. We are called to live with true joy and stubborn hope in spite of the terrible things that are happening in our world and around us. We do this by doing the work that Jesus did. We take care of those that others despise and the world hurts. We love those who are on the margins and we find ways to bring them back inside the community. As we participate with God in this work our joy and hope are made more secure no matter the circumstances of our world. And so, it is ok to breathe and pray and sing the words, "Come, Lord Jesus Come." And then we must roll up our sleeves and be the Jesus that goes to the rest of the world.

What is the best Christmas present you ever got and why?

What present did you most want but not receive and how do you feel about that?

What gift do you think the world would most like to get this Christmas and why?

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND JESSE TREE LITURGY

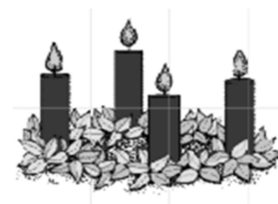
Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

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

Let us Pray

O God of joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen

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



**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish** – Jo Tuckman, **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** – Joan Coupland, Seedorf Ben Anueo, Alan Slow, Sheila McCormack, Breege Quinn, John Quinn, Ermias Mahari, Tom McManamon, Jan Oleski, Raymond Hogan, Tim O'Shea;

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,357. 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.

### **Reconciliation:**

In preparation for Christmas the 6.30pm Mass this Monday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> December, will incorporate a Service of Reconciliation with opportunity for individual confession.

### **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 – local families that our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul are in touch with, and also for the Cardinal Hume Centre, which does outstanding work with families in distress and with the homeless. 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.) Many of the items on the tags are of a practical nature, like warm socks, gloves and so on, but there are also suggestions for small non-essentials, like biscuits, toys, books, games, etc – items which for us we're inclined to take for granted, but for others are a luxury that they could never afford to buy for themselves. 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.

### **A Highgate Christmas: an Advent Evening of Readings and Carols:**

Join us this Thursday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.30pm for a flavour of Christmas given by extracts and poems from some of the great writers associated with Highgate, as well as readings from Holy Scripture and beautiful music from our own choir, and our organist Alberto Brigandi. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

### **Mass of Induction:**

Fr. George would like to thank everyone who attended his Induction Mass on Friday evening. Your prayers and support, and your company afterwards, are warmly appreciated.

### **Living Crib:**

And a big Thank You also to everyone involved in making last weekend's Living Crib such a successful and enjoyable afternoon, not least Derek the Donkey who trotted joyfully down the hill spreading Advent joy to surprised pedestrians and motorists alike. The church was packed for carols and we even ran out of mince pies!

### **100 Club:**

The December draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Prayer Group:**

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not be meeting during the Christmas break. Meetings resume at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 14th January 2020 in the Red Room, when everyone will be welcome.

### **Cardinal's Golden Jubilee of Ordination:**

The Cardinal will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of ordination as a priest on 21st December. There will be a Mass of thanksgiving for this milestone in the Cardinal's ministry at 10.30am on Saturday 21st December in Westminster Cathedral.

### **Christmas at the Repository:**

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, 2020 Calendars and the Westminster Year Book are all available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.