



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 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

17th September 2017 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Need an Update?

I think it's fair to say that I'm comfortable with modern technology – I'm quite happy to avail of its advantages, and on the other hand I don't feel any need to have the latest version of everything – apart from anything else I simply couldn't afford it. So, for instance, I'm happy to drive around in a second-hand car that reliably gets me from where I am to where I want to go, and when I want to go. Thanks to a very reliable and helpful mechanic/second-hand-car-dealer (no, I don't agree with the cliché!) my driving has cost the parish very little in the last nine years. But it's not the car that has been causing me a lot of thought lately – in fact it behaved so well on my holidays that I got back from Holyhead about 3 hours earlier than I anticipated, though a lot of that might be put down to the delightful company of Fr. Ralph for the journey. (Who said I'm a snivelling wretch?)

No, my recent problems have been with my phone, which of late hasn't been living up to its claim to be 'smart'! In fairness I've had it for four years, and in smartphone terms that's probably about two or three lifetimes. I've got nothing against old age – I have lots of friends who are old! (now, don't be thinking unkind thoughts!) – but lately it has been behaving in some unexpected ways. I like surprises – but not from my phone. Finding that, for instance, emails have been deleted without my say-so tends to raise my anxiety levels – have I lost something important there, that I can't now remember? Or finding that the reason there hasn't been a sound out of it for the last few hours is because the battery has drained unexpectedly leads to worries as to whether I've missed an important call.

Hence I decided to investigate the possibility of getting a new phone. I don't tend to go for the latest model – they're usually ridiculously priced – but look to last year's model. To cut a long story short, having spent an hour in a reputable shop, discussing the merits and drawbacks of the myriad of possibilities with an attendant whom I was feeling sorry for, because I knew how it was going to end, I eventually returned home hoping that maybe all I needed was a new battery! It'll keep me going for a while longer, maybe until last year's models come down a little more in price. Probably all the problems have been caused by one app or another updating itself.

Which raises an interesting question – did you ever imagine if one could update people the way one updates programs, what would be the improvements you would make. Sorry, I should have made it clearer – I'm not talking about to other people, but to one's self! Because, in a sense, that's what our Gospel reading today is about. Peter is admitting that his thinking on the subject of forgiveness needs to be updated – has Jesus got any suggestions? You can almost hear Jesus say – “where do I start? First of all get rid of that notion that you should have any limits on the amount of times you're prepared to forgive. And it's not an option – certainly not if you realise that you need forgiveness as well. Say the Our Father a little more carefully and listen to what you're saying! And it's got to come from the heart.”

That's probably why I don't have a new phone – I don't think my heart was really in it that day in the shop. I hope I can forgive better!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Patrick Timoney, Dorothy Handerek, Penelope Brooks; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Brian Hartigan, Lilian Cadien; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Desley Deike, Perry Clune, Damien Hogan, Tom Webster, Sr. Margaret MacDonogh, Dorothy Buick, Jacqueline Deely, Maureen Wilmann.

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 are available in the porch of the church. 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. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,277. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course – which is principally intended – but not exclusively – for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com. Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

Parking on Highgate Hill:

We draw your attention to the fact that parking regulations on the section of Highgate Hill beside the church have recently been changed with little publicity or consultation by Islington Council. There is now NO free parking at any time of any day of the week!

Parish Bazaar – November 25th:

We don't seem to be properly back into a new year as yet, and already we are beginning the countdown to our Christmas Bazaar – it's only 10 weeks away! It might appear strange to be announcing it this early, but as this is the only regular fund-raising event we have each year, and also one of our principle social events, it is important that people support it as best they can. We appreciate that people have been very generous over the years in contributing items for the various stalls, and we pray for that to continue, but you will readily appreciate how disheartening it can be for the volunteers who give so generously of their time if on the actual day there is a disappointing attendance. Thank God that hasn't been the case in recent years, where the attendance has been increasing year on year, and feedback has been very positive. But we still have people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So please put the date in your diary, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

Our Lady's Convent High School:

Our Lady's Convent High School, Amhurst Park, are holding their Year 6 Open Evening on Tuesday 19th September. They are also holding Open Mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am from Monday 18th to Friday 29th September. There will also be a weekend school tour on Saturday 30th September from 10am to 12pm.

Human Trafficking-Responding Locally

Caritas Westminster and Santa Marta Group in conjunction with Camden and Islington and Met Police are hosting an evening on responding locally to human trafficking. The evening will focus on why human trafficking is an issue, and the extent of the problem in London, and talk about practical actions you can take. The event will take place this Tuesday, 19th September, 6.30-8.30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall, Stafford Road, NW6 5RS. Speakers include: Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Michael Duthie.