



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)

23rd October 2016 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Watch How You Pray!

At an earlier stage of my life – when I had a lot more energy and strength – I was very heavily involved in youth work, as it was called then. By day I was teaching in a secondary level school, and in the evening I was running a youth club for children from 12 to 17. The children – and there was a lot of overlap between school and club - were from one of the poorer areas of Dublin – financially – but their homes were generally full of love for each other and respect for deep Christian values. And we tried to run the youth club as a way of supporting the homes and the values they attempted to instil in their children. But I have to acknowledge that while we were hopefully giving a lot to the young folk, we were also getting a lot back. I think it probably was the first time that I fully realised that there are many right ways of doing things – that not everybody was brought up in the same kind of environment as I was, but that didn't mean that their parents were doing it the wrong way!

But I also learned a lot more. Most of the children I had in school could never have been described as being academically gifted – in fact the school I was working in was one where the children who were unable to get into either of the two 'ordinary' level schools ended up. But there are other kinds of intelligence! This I learned from a young boy, about 14 years old at the time, who was giving myself and the other leaders a difficult time in terms of his unacceptable behaviour. I knew him well, and generally made allowances for him because of a difficult situation in his home, which I had visited often – which meant that he also knew me fairly well. So, when I brought him to the office one evening to explain that his behaviour was unacceptable, and while we had never previously barred any child from the club, he might have to become the first one – which was something we most definitely did not want to do.

Now, if that had been said to me as a 14 year old, I would have been shocked and above all worried that my parents would find out, and would have promised that I had learnt my lesson and would be well behaved in future. But that wasn't the response of the boy I had in the office. Instead he responded – "But Father Pat, you couldn't do that! You know that if you bar me from the club I will be out on the streets getting into trouble. And you will feel responsible for me!" All this said with the cheekiest of grins on his face, because he knew it was substantially true. And of course we didn't bar him but gave him another 'last' warning! He never passed an exam in his life, but don't tell me he was unintelligent!

Somehow that incident came to mind when reading today's Gospel. The Pharisee thought he was in a position to 'know' the tax collector at the back of the temple and to judge him. But he would have needed to spend a lot more time with him to realise that there was a lot more to him than met the eye – like his humility, penitence, trust in God, etc. And we could say the same thing of God – perhaps we don't spend enough time in his company to get to know him and what he really can bring to our lives. And for the same reason, among others, we're certainly in no position to be judging one another!

And quickly, on another subject entirely – we will be having a visiting Missionary – a Columban Father – with us next Sunday, rather than this, to speak on behalf of his Congregation's missionary work. So don't forget to bring a little extra in your purse or pocket for the exit collection on their behalf.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Agnes Murphy (funeral 11.00am Thursday 27th October, reception 5.30pm Wednesday), Mary Faherty, Anna Pearson, Sheila Karsberg, Harry Griffin; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Dorothy Ambler, Hannah Ahern, Ralph Crisp, Christie Kissane, Nora McGarry, Matt Faherty, Maureen Wilmann.

November Dead List:

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are now available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are submitted for the list.

100 Club:

The October draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members and agents 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.

NO 7.00, 9.00 or 11.00 a.m. Mass next Sunday!

Don't forget you can enjoy those sweet dreams for an hour longer next Sunday! Clocks go back one hour on Saturday 29th October.

Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 19th November:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 19th of November which, believe it or not, is only **four** weeks away. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl, whose email address is felicitymaynard@hotmail.com. And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

Mealtime Supervisor /Premises Assistant:

St Joseph's Primary School is looking for a Mealtime Supervisor (hours 11:45-1:15) and also a Premises Assistant (7:30-3:30 or 10-6pm – Exact hours to be agreed). For more information and an application form for either post please email office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk or visit the school office after 31st October via the Dartmouth Park Hill entrance.

Fr. Ray's Return to Australia:

Thanks to all who took such trouble in arranging, and baking for the party to mark Fr. Ray's departure – which happens this coming Friday, the 28th. Thanks also to all who took the trouble to turn up to wish him farewell and every blessing on his future assignments. I'm sure he really appreciated it.

Fr. Anthony will be with us for a few more days – unfortunately for us he has prior commitments elsewhere later in the week. But the good news is that Fr. Frank – yes, wee Fr. Frank – will be with us from Wednesday until the return of Fr. Tiernan on November 7th. I am really grateful to them both for making themselves available in our time of need.

Church Cleaning:

A sincere thank you to all those helping with the cleaning of the Church in readiness for the week-end masses. It appears that Saturday mornings at 11.00am is best for most people. So if you've been meaning to come, but maybe forgot it on the day, please feel free to come any Saturday to give a helping hand.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be on Saturday, November 26th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2017 – 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 pfcp44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course - for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfcp44@yahoo.com Parish members who would like to take part and refresh their knowledge of the faith, and share their experience of faith with others, are very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so no need to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,602. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

St. Joseph's Primary School:

If you weren't able to make it to St Joseph's Primary school's open morning last week, fear not – you have another opportunity on **Tuesday 22nd November**. Registration and refreshments from 9:15am. All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available from the school office or to download from the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/>