



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@yahoo.com) 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)

27th May 2018 – The Most Holy Trinity He Is With Us

As I looked out across the scene there were bodies lying all over the place, with here and there wisps of smoke rising gently to the sky. No, I wasn't visiting the scene of a war movie – I was just taking a break over in Waterlow Park! I hope you've been able to enjoy the beautiful weather we've been having – those of you who are still here and not off enjoying yourselves elsewhere. Remembering those wise sayings of my youth – about all work and no play and so on – I've paid the odd visit to the park across the road, looking for inspiration for the bulletin, of course! What a difference the sunshine makes! Great temptation to bring a picnic blanket and plenty of factor 50 and plop down with a good book – the Bible, naturally - and thank God for His gift of sunshine for a few hours! Not much help for the bulletin for Trinity Sunday, I'm afraid. Couldn't even find a sprig of shamrock!

But mention of shamrock of course is reference to the legend of St. Patrick using the shamrock as an illustration of what today's feast is about – three divine persons in one God. And mention of St. Patrick of course brings Ireland to mind, and Ireland is a place that is getting unwelcome attention at the moment. At time of writing the final results of the referendum haven't come through, but there is no doubt that the constitution is going to be changed, and the government have indicated that they will be bringing in a law to permit abortion effectively on demand during the first three months of pregnancy. For those of us who believe in the sanctity of all life this is a very sad day, no matter how expected it was.

But it also offers us an opportunity to examine our attitude to law and how it relates to our faith. The fact, for instance, that something is lawful doesn't necessarily make it right. The fact that abortion will now be legally permitted doesn't take away from the obligation that each Christian has to honour a greater Law – that of love. And part of that law of love is that we respect the right of people to be wrong! We cannot impose our, or Christ's, values on others. That's what the freedom of conscience is all about.

But our gospel today is putting a much more positive spin on that. The world the apostles lived in was similar in ways to our own, in that the majority of the population didn't know the teaching of Christ. So it's not surprising that Jesus, in his final words to his disciples before he ascended to the Father, should commission them to go out and "make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you."

That wasn't a commission simply for his disciples of two thousand years ago – it is still our commission as believers. Such matters as abortion are not simply political issues – they are for many people very personal and moral issues. To be baptised is not simply to say that I believe – it must also be to say that I want to share that belief with others. Perhaps what has happened in Ireland in recent years is a reminder, and warning, to us all of what can happen when Christ's message is used as a basis for power, rather than service.

But our gospel ends with a comforting message – for those who take on that mission of service to the world – "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." May you experience that presence in a loving way this week.

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We pray for those who have died recently – May Miranda (funeral 11.30am Thursday 7th June), Patrick Smyth; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Peter Paul O'Connor CP, Bp. Victor Guazzelli, Elizabeth Wright, Maureen Jones, Maurice Kennedy, Tom Lucitt, John McIntyre, James & Charles O'Boyle, Carmel Hogan.

Coffee Morning Next Sunday:

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be next Sunday, 2nd June, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00 am. Mass. Why not avail of this good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish? All are welcome to relax for a while and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Shared International Lunch:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who turned up, and many of whom brought food with them, for the wonderful international lunch that we had last Sunday to mark the feast of Pentecost. We were blessed with a wonderful day, so that people could spread out into the garden. And we were blessed with a wide selection of food from all over the world. A very special thank you to Paula and her family, and Roxane, for all the preparatory work they put in to making it such a huge success. And commiserations to all the unfortunate people who for one reason or another weren't able to be there – make sure you get your diary in order for next year!

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,506. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity.

100 Club Results:

The May Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 102 and the winners were: £400 A. Bartley (54), £100 Kathleen Fitzpatrick (23), £50 Melinda Cheung (77). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held in the last week of the month - subscriptions should be paid by 24th June. Thanks again for your support.

Organ Recital:

The next in our season of organ recitals will be given by organist Paul Ayres on Thursday evening, 7th June at 7.30pm. Admission is free and donations to our organ fund will be welcome.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery:

If your child is 3 years old or will be turning 3 in the Autumn Term, apply now for the school nursery. The school is both Ofsted & Diocese rated 'outstanding' and has an ethos based on Faith, Community and a true partnership between school, our church and the families of the children. The school is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support their faith. The school offers full time nursery places 8:40-3:15 and with the option (subject to availability) of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£10) until 6pm. Applications available on the website - www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk; or contact the school for further information Tel: 0207 272 1270

An Invitation to Young Adults from the Cardinal:

The Cardinal invites young adults, aged 18 to 30, to join him at Archbishop's House for three meetings (15th May, **29th May**, 19th June, all at 6.30pm) to explore the theme of vocation, with an opportunity for prayer, input, discussion and question and answer. The second meeting is this coming Tuesday but all are welcome to attend whichever meetings they are able. More details can be found on the youth section of the diocesan website (www.dowym.com). If you would like to come along, please let them know by sending a quick email to youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress:

The bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool in 7-9 September 2018. The Echo Arena in Liverpool - which can accommodate 10,000 pilgrims - will be the home to a six-hour stage programme on the 8th September and will include a Congress Mass, keynote speakers Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nicholas, and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with Adoration. For more information and to enquire about tickets to events, please contact adoremus@rcdow.org.uk or call 07738183829 Tickets are available through the Diocese until 31 May.

APF Red Boxes:

Holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes are asked to bring them in next Sunday, or hand them in to the monastery during the week. Please remember to fill in your details on the bottom of the box so that your donation can be identified. Please ask for a new box, available from the Sacristy.

Parish Centre Ceili Mix:

The Monthly Céili Mix is on next Friday 1st June @ 8pm. The Tony Kearney Band will play the best of music for all to dance to, a mix of all trad dancing including ceili, and waltzes, quickStep. and sets. Open to all ages, Only a Fiver for adults. William will show the way if needed. Also in the Parish Centre on Saturday night we have the Glenn Flynn Band from Co. Offally. Great music and dance For All.