

# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

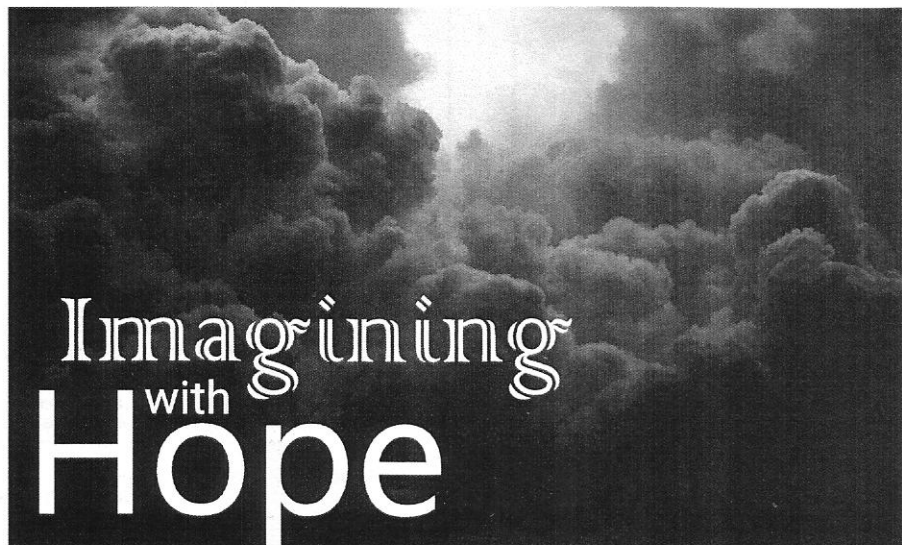
## P A R I S H B U L L E T I N

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20 SEPTEMBER 2020

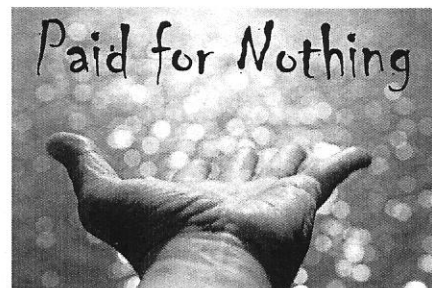
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**T**he First Reading for today is from Deutero-Isaiah, and many believe that much of this section of the book is compiled near the end of the Israelites' exile in Babylon. Therefore, most of the words and messages that we hear in this section of the book are filled with hope. Hope that is intended to help them make it home. Today's passage is the way that second Isaiah closes. Many of those who heard it, would have been born in exile. They were there for fifty years. They had no real memory of Jerusalem. But they have the stories that had been told to them; and how wonderful Jerusalem used to be. These exiles lived in a place that was not their home. Even if they were born there it wasn't home. They paid heavy taxation, and the feeling was generally not belonging. Many wanted to return home to the land that had been theirs or of their families before. As we read through this passage, we hear the prophet describing a world that seems impossible to occur. God would provide good food, wine and milk for everyone, free of charge. God will nourish the earth. And it will in turn produce all manner of nourishment and beauty for the people to enjoy. These exiles who lived in such harsh conditions must have struggled to even imagine a time when life would be so easy, so abundant. And the truth is when we read Third Isaiah which

begins in chapter 56 to the end of the book, we learn that when the exiles returned home to Jerusalem what they find is not a city bursting forth with abundance and good food and water; but a city that is still broken from neglect and from Babylon's fury fifty years earlier.

So why does the prophet share these promises of God? It is the role of the prophet to speak words of hope in seemingly hopeless situations. The people would never have had the strength to return home without the hope of what could be. And there's no way that they could live into the reality of that hope, if they could not imagine it. The same is still true today. If we are unable to imagine with hope of what can be, we will never be able to participate in helping to make it happen. When we are able to describe the world as it ought to be we can then be empowered to transform the world from how it is today.



Our concept of justice  
Is shattered-  
The pieces fall  
Into God's hands  
To be re-moulded  
In the gift of mercy-  
Our small minds rock  
As they break open  
To absorb the shock  
Of this generosity,  
This way of God.  
We swing to and fro  
In our uncertainty  
Until the light dawns  
And we land  
In the reality  
Of our experience.

-Marian Therese Burke SUSC



100 Club Results  
- June Draw  
The number of entries  
was 110 and the

winners were:

£400 Jessica Gomeze (27),  
£100 Caitriona Kelly (131),  
£50 Paul O'Shea (13).

We will be catching up over the coming weeks with the outstanding draws which were not held during lockdown.



**BOOKING  
YOUR  
PLACE  
AT MASS**

**Mass Times** - Saturday Vigil: 7PM, Sunday: 8AM, 10AM,  
12 NOON & 7PM, Weekdays: 9:30AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday : 10AM - 10:30AM, 6:30PM - 6:45PM, Weekdays : Immediately after  
Mass (On request)

*Pray*

+ Consuelo Neira  
+ Hugh Gillen Senior



*Remember*

• Perry Clune • DesleyDeike • Peter McNally  
• Donna Cadien-Kinsella

## AN UPDATE ON COVID PROTOCOLS

*"Let each of you look not only to one's own interests, But also, to the interests of others."* — Philippians 2:4

The Covid-19 virus continues to rage unabated. At this time, it would be useful to remind all of procedures that we have in place and some new protocols that must be implemented so that we can keep our church as secure as we can. We have Volunteer Stewards at each Mass to ensure that we enter and leave the church as safely as possible and observe social distancing as far as seating is concerned. They also assist with sanitizing the pews and spaces likely to have been touched after each Mass. We thank our Stewards very much for being generous with their time.

Hand sanitizing before entering the church is essential. Hand-Gel dispensers that work on sensors are available at the entrance. Please use them.

Please sit only in the spaces marked with an X.

For members of the same household who are not required to social distance, please sit in Zone 2 which is reserved for same household members. If that area is full, please feel free to spill over into Zone 4.

Please do not leave empty spaces in the pews. We'd like to accommodate as many people as we can for Mass and quite often the centre spaces in the pews are left unoccupied with people preferring to sit at the ends. It denies a valuable space to another person.

Allowing for same households to sit together, we can accommodate a maximum of 120 people at each Mass. At the moment, the Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm on Saturday and the 08:00am and the 7:00 pm Mass on Sunday have plenty of space. The 10am and 12noon Masses on Sunday are our hotspots! If it gets too crowded at these Masses, we may have to ask some of you to remain outside the church if we are full. We are sorry about this but we cannot see any other way of solving the problem. For health and safety reasons, there is a limit on how many can be inside the church at any one time. We would therefore encourage you to vary the Masses you attend.

For those with internet access, we would strongly recommend that you pre-book online to attend Mass. This helps us to keep track of the numbers and also prevents a queue of people at the entrance trying to get into church. It wastes time if we have to take down your names and phone numbers and is much easier if you have pre-booked and



we just have to tick your name on the list. You can book a place at Mass via this link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/>

The parish website also has a link to enable you to pre-book a place.

For those without internet access, who cannot pre-book a place to attend Mass, you must provide your name and phone number. This is now required by law. It allows us to contact you should there be a reported case of Covid-19. If you have internet access, we strongly recommend that you pre-book your space to attend Mass. If you have a pre-booked place, we are not required to take down your details.

The wearing of face masks is absolutely mandatory inside the church. Our volunteers have been instructed to insist that they should be worn before you enter the church unless you have an exemption for health reasons. The face mask should be properly worn, to cover your mouth and nose.

Please also remember to observe the 1-meter social distancing at all times inside the church.

While we do the best we can to ensure that our church is safe, it cannot be done alone. The behaviour of each and everyone of us is also crucial. Let us all be vigilant and responsible for our actions so that all are safe.

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we manoeuvre through these uncharted territories together.**

The Parish Covid-19 Task Force



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY



We'll be talking about...  
Was the landowner generous in the gospel?  
Who do we know that is generous?



We'll be praying for...  
People who are generous  
Help to be good and kind



We'll be thinking about...  
What does being generous mean?  
What could we do this week to be kind?



Our Gospel is about...  
Jesus tell the story of a landowner who went out to find workers for his fields. He went out 5 times to get workers. At dawn, 9 'o clock, 12 noon, 3 'o clock and 5 'o clock. When it came time to pay them he gave each man the same wage even if they had worked all day or only for 1 hour. The man did this because he was kind, just like God



-Sarah Duncan

## Can You Help As A Volunteer Steward?

It seems that these challenging COVID-19 times are likely to be with us for some time. Volunteer Stewards are a critical part of our plans to continue to keep St Joseph's open for all the weekend Masses and to ensure that we comply with the government's health and safety regulations. We need Stewards at all Masses, but especially for the Saturday 7pm, Sunday 8am and Sunday 7pm Masses. Please can you help by volunteering an hour of your time? We have a delightful group of Stewards who are generous with their time, but they need help. It can feel immensely gratifying to connect with your community, meet new people and give something back.

St Joseph's needs you. If you are able to help, please could you contact Betty Pires by email at [bettypires1503@gmail.com](mailto:bettypires1503@gmail.com) or by Telephone on 07785925780.

Thank you very much.

## Planned Giving Drive and Completed Gift Aid Forms

We thank you very much for your generosity and cooperation over our Parish Planned Giving Drive over the last two weekends. For those who still have yet to return your completed Gift Aid Forms, there is a sealed box in the porch. Please drop your completed forms into the box.

Thank you once again.  
Parish Finance Committee