



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@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)

19th March 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Lent Coming To Heel!

I'm not quite sure why the thought came into my head during the week, but despite growing up only three miles from the centre of Dublin city, I never went into the "city centre"! We always went "into town". I don't know whether people say that here, but I can't say that I've heard it. And one of the occasions when we went into town was for the St. Patrick's Day parade. In those days we had two parades annually – St. Patrick's Day, which was an 'industrial' parade, and Easter, which was military, for obvious historical reasons. I'm afraid I've long gotten out of the tradition of going to parades – haven't been to the one in London ever (the fact that it is generally held on a Sunday doesn't help me either) - but over the years have celebrated the occasion according to local custom. The custom in Paris, for instance, was that we would have a mass in the morning, followed by a reception, prepared by volunteers from the parish and attended by a major part of the Irish people in Paris at the time – including representatives from the (Irish) Government – St. Patrick's Day is their special junket occasion! – and the Irish Embassy, who were on the other side of the Arc de Triomphe.

In the evening, then, we would have to attend the reception at the Embassy. I say "have to" because it really wasn't my scene at all, but not attending was not really an option – it would have been regarded as very poor form! So any little incident out of the ordinary was always a welcome diversion. Like the evening I was standing chatting with a group, all of us trying to look interested as we did our best to balance a glass of champagne – no, not Guinness – in one hand, and a couple of 'nibbles' in a plate on the other. I began to realise that the attention of the group seemed to be getting drawn to a little disturbance that was going on behind me. On looking around it quickly became obvious that a lady to my right was paying the price for wearing high heels – why do women torture themselves in this way? Her heel, which could have been used to assemble a decent kebab, had got caught in a highly ornate grille in the floor. A gallant gentleman was assisting as best he could, but in releasing the shoe left half the heel behind. A little more time spent fishing through the grill and the missing heel was recovered; and a few bangs off the floor later, and the lady was back on an even keel!

I doubt that the woman in our gospel today was wearing high heels – she seems to have been far more practical than that. In fact in the circumstances she was more practically prepared than Jesus – not much point in coming to a well unless you've got a bucket. And she was the one with the bucket! But her problem was that she didn't seem to know what she wanted – or in the images of the story, what could satisfy her thirst. As Jesus reminded her, she may well fill her bucket with water, but it won't satisfy her thirst for ever – she will have to come back again when she gets thirsty again. And she seemed to have the same problem with husbands – she had already gone to the well at least five times. And as the story develops we find that the people of her village shared that same sense of thirsting – thirsting for something to satisfy their souls, their spirits. Jesus promises them, and us, that He is offering them, and us, living water, that needs to spring up inside us, leading us to eternal life. And that living water is His word – a word of love and peace. Only that love and peace really satisfies our deepest needs and desires.

People may get let down by their heels – but never by Jesus!

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We pray for the sick of the Parish - Fr. Charles Owen CP, Nancy Lennon; **for those who have died recently** – Sally Heggarty; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Patrick Moynihan, Lala Siemicka, Fr. Declan O'Toole, Pat Nevin, Mary Kelly.

Stations of the Cross:

During the season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross immediately after the 6.30 pm. Mass each Friday. This is a particularly appropriate form of prayer during Lent, especially in a Passionist church, as it encourages meditation on the profound mystery on the depth of the Lord's love for us as expressed in His passion, death and resurrection. Of course, if the set time is not suitable for you, you can also do this particular form of prayer at any time on your own or with some friends.

Lenten Project:

During previous Lents you have been very generous in your support of our two Lenten projects. There is hardly any need to remind you that conditions in Haiti – where two of our Passionist priests work - are still horrific. They were still trying to deal with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2010, when Hurricane Matthew struck last year causing even more death and destruction. And all this in what is one of the poorest countries in the world. For regular updates on the kind of help your money is providing in Haiti please visit - <http://www.stlukehaiti.org/blog/> .

The other charity your Lenten project donations help is the Cardinal Hume Centre. This charity is particularly worthy in that they not only provide emergency help to those in need, but concentrate much of their resources in finding long-term solutions for their clients through education and training. For more detailed information on their wonderful work please visit their site - <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/>

As usual, for the six Sundays of Lent we will be having an exit collection after all Masses, the proceeds of which will be divided between Haiti and the Cardinal Hume Centre. In addition, there are two wall-boxes located at either side at the back of the church which are dedicated to the same causes.

Church Cleaning Fest:

The headline you've been eagerly waiting to see! Wait no more – our next big church clean-up, in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, will be on Friday, 7th April, from 2 to 5 pm. If you are free for any part of that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way (and would like to partake of the wonderful refreshments provided), please sign up on the volunteering list that will be in the porch or email roxane.stirling@btpopenworld.com

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,788. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

Dance for Cancer:

Supporting the Marie Curie Hospice Hampstead Friday 7th April 8.30pm at St. Josephs Parish Centre. Music by Tony Kearney Band, variety of Dances, Waltzes, Quick Steps, Céilí and Sets. Only £5, Please Support, Tickets from Antón or Mary Coyle on 7272 5815

Are you ready to Volunteer and make a difference in Lourdes?

Every year, the Diocese of Westminster takes a large number of sick pilgrims to Lourdes and rely very much on the help of volunteers. If you are between 16 and 18, you can serve as a 'Red Cap', helping people in wheelchairs and taking part in the processions etc. more details can be obtained from Katrina Lavery at katrina.lavery@clovershipping.com. If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Some of our sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai. They are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteers. The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends. Although plenty of people come back year after year, at least half the people in your team will, like you, be working in the St Frai for the first time, and because of this we organise training for all helpers beforehand to ensure that you are happy in everything you do. Helping in Lourdes is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. If you're interested in helping in the St Frai, please email Nick Leonard at westminsterstfrai@gmail.com Serving on a pilgrimage is a hugely rewarding experience and an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we care for.

Come and See - becoming a Permanent Deacon:

Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to a two hour meeting at St Edward the Confessor, 700 Finchley Rd, on Saturday 25th March from 10am to 12. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.

Laetare Sunday Adoration:

There will be a service of Adoration at St. Gabriel's, Holloway Road, on Laetare Sunday, 26th March from 2.00pm till midnight, with evening Mass at 6.30pm, as usual.

Clocks Forward:

British Summer Time starts next weekend. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour next Saturday.