



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 (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)

2nd July 2017 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who Do You Love?

When I was a teenager and thinking of becoming a priest, in a sense it was no big deal. Literally hundreds of people of my age in Ireland were doing exactly the same. And the day I was ordained there were eleven other young men being ordained with me in the same ceremony, and many such ceremonies were happening throughout the country. Talking of Passionists alone there were six of us ordained in Ireland that year, and forty-six throughout the world. We could never have imagined then that there would only be two Passionists ordained for the Irish Province in the last twenty years, and similar drops in the number of ordinations to the priesthood throughout the world. Which, of course, has led to the great difficulty that there is in staffing parishes, even in a city as large as London, and which is relatively blessed with the numbers being ordained here in recent years.

As you can well imagine, I have heard all sorts of 'solutions'. "They should let priests get married"; or "They should let women become priests"; or "They should let priests sign up for, say, ten years, and then let them go off and do whatever". Can't you just imagine it – I've signed a contract to be a priest in Highgate for eight years, and in the final year I start negotiations with the Parish Council about extending my contract – with an appropriate raise in salary and a suitable signing on fee! Or maybe somebody will come in from another parish offering me better terms! God forbid that such a situation would ever arise. I've deliberately made the comparison with a footballer – and I don't mind admitting I was a fairly useful one in my day – because in a sense it helps us to see more easily the heart of the problem, and of the solution. Commitment.

The reality is that we live in a world where commitment is something that seems to frighten most people. "Will you give me a commitment on that?" is probably the most waste-of-time question a journalist could ever ask – a guarantee that some other question will be answered. But it isn't just politicians or potential priests that have problems with commitment – it seems to go right throughout society. I stress that I am not making any judgement about anybody in particular, but the statistics bear out that less and less people are prepared nowadays to commit themselves to marriage, even when they really do believe that they are truly in love with one another and can never imagine it being otherwise. I put a lot of blame on the smug use of that horrific phrase 'being tied down' to describe the concept of being committed to a partner and children. That certainly wouldn't be something to celebrate together. But surely to know that someone loves you deeply and is prepared to commit their life to you, and the prospect that together you hope to experience the mountains of love that is involved in having and raising a family together – surely that is something anyone would want to celebrate?

Our gospel passage this Sunday is expressed in ways that are a little alien to our ears – it sounds almost like Jesus is saying we've got to make a choice between family and Him. But we know that is not the case. His own commitment to his family, and particularly to his mother even up to his death on the cross is testimony to that. Not to mention the many families he restored by curing people and even bringing people back to life. No, in this passage Jesus is inviting us really to model our commitment to him on that which we should have for those nearest and dearest to us. And then some. And he reminds us that it is as rewarding as the feeling we get whenever we do an act of kindness to anybody, especially the 'little ones', the most needy. Recent events have seen massive outpourings of love and support for those needing it. It shows that people really have that commitment to love. We shouldn't be afraid of it!

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We pray for those who have died recently - Sean Doherty, Maurice Flynn; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur – Mary Barulis, Anna Tierney, Patrick Queenan.

First Communion Photographs:

The official photographs are now available to order online – a lovely reminder of a very special event. Parents should have received details of how to access and order them but if you need more information email either the photographer martinblack@me.com or communion.joseph@gmail.com stating which week your child made their First Communion.

Coffee Morning This Sunday:

The latest in our series of Parish Coffee Mornings is this Sunday, 2nd July, 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 in the Red Room, or, weather permitting, in the garden, and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Grenfell Tower Fire:

Just a reminder that Westminster Diocese has established an emergency relief fund, which will be distributed through Caritas Westminster and other Catholic charities working in the community. A special donations page has been set up on the diocesan website (rcdow.org.uk) with a direct link from the home page.

For up-to-date information on practical needs or volunteering, please see the Kensington & Chelsea Borough website www.rbkc.gov.uk.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,825. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Last week's Peter's Pence collection for Papal Charities raised £340. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Mary's Meals:

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon this Sunday, 2nd July, to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 4 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

Cleaning Fest:

The headline you've been eagerly waiting to see! Wait no more – our next big church clean-up, after all the events of the past few months, will be this coming Wednesday, 5th July, from 10 to 12 noon. 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

100 Club Results:

The June Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 108 and the winners were: £400 J. M. David (183), £100 Chiara Mayer-Riekh (142), £50 E. Tierney (90). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 23rd July. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 22nd & 29th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 5th August), near Colchester. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit www.svpboscocamp.org.uk for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

The Passage Garden Party:

There will be a Garden Party in aid of The Passage (homeless day centre) in the historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Friday 21 July 2017 from 6.00 p.m. Visit the oldest cultivated garden in England with a back drop of the Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Tickets £40 from The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL tel. 020 7592 1856 email tickets@passage.org.uk which includes buffet supper, wine, soft drinks, live music and a prize raffle. Tickets are also available through passage-garden-party.eventbrite.co.uk

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here.