



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@yahoo.com) Fr. Tiernan (tiernanpcp@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)

8th May 2016 – The Ascension of the Lord WILL I RISE TO THE OCCASION?

When one becomes a Parish Priest, one should really accept, as part of the honour, that one is going to come under all kinds of pressure to fulfil the often unrealistic expectations of people. Let me stress, before going any further, that in reality I find most people most considerate – maybe even too considerate at times – and generally have no complaints on that score. And the strange thing is, that in relation to people putting pressure on one, it is usually people who for the most part have no real involvement in the everyday/everyweek life of the parish – but suddenly they've realised their passport is out of date, and they've booked a holiday for next week, and they urgently need a form signed NOW. (In case you have been in some similar situation since I've come here, let me again stress I'm not referring to people who can be genuinely considered part of the parish – so you're all safe! For you I'm always happy to oblige!)

But this past week has been very different. I've been coming under intense, concerted pressure from people I know very well, and have the greatest of respect and admiration for. And they contribute hugely to the life of the Parish. At first I wasn't too sure if it was a bit of a 'wind-up' – especially seeing the week that was in it – celebrating the feast of the Ascension! Maybe they were thinking that since as a priest I imitate the Lord in celebrating the Last Supper I should also imitate Him in His Ascension into Heaven! But it's not the function of a priest to imitate the Lord in everything – and certainly I have absolutely no desire to be crucified in imitation of Good Friday! I, as politely as possible, was explaining my doubts, when I get the killer argument – “but it'll give you something to write about in the bulletin!”

Sorry – I realise I haven't explained what this is all about yet. There are a group of about twenty teachers from St. Joseph's School going on one of those sky-diving ventures – you know, you jump out of a plane and fall down to earth for about forty seconds (must seem like an eternity!), and then you pull a string and hope a parachute opens so that when you hit the ground you only break your legs and not your neck! (OK, I exaggerate a little now and then!) And they want me to go with them – no, not to administer the sacrament of the sick when they land, but to actually jump with them. “You'll be perfectly safe – you'll be strapped to an expert” etc. etc. No thanks! “But you'll regret it afterwards if you don't go!” No thanks. “And you'll be raising money for charity!” No thanks. You know how persistent some people can be – so I related to the extent of saying “I'll think about it!”

But this week-end it's not my ascent into the heavens, but the Lord's Ascension to His heavenly Father, that we are thinking about. And He links His Ascension very much with the sending of the Holy Spirit, and the effect that the Spirit will have on them – they will become His ambassadors throughout the earth – spreading His message far and wide. And we are the fortunate recipients of that commitment of the apostles and succeeding generations in passing on the message of Christ. So in a real sense we could say today's Feast is really the first half of the combined feast of Ascension and Pentecost, which we celebrate next Sunday. We are invited, as it were, to raise our thoughts above the mundane and allow ourselves to be filled with a Spirit that looks on the world from an entirely different point of view – but not from an airplane, surely?

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, especially - Isabel Gomez-Nino, David Evans; we pray for those who have died recently – Carmel Anne Temple (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 10th May), Mary Hynes, John Connolly, Michael McEnroy; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Gerald Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, Dennis Hartung, Marie & Jer Dermody, Mary McLoughlin, Roisin Skelly, Siobhan Reynolds, Sara Watters.

Coffee Morning:

The latest in our series of monthly Coffee Mornings will be taking place this Sunday, May 8th, immediately after the 10 o'clock Mass. Especially in this beautiful weather we encourage you to come along to the Red Room and garden, and take the time to meet with your fellow-parishioners.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,968. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month.

Organ Recital:

The next in our 2016 season of organ recitals will be this Thursday 12th May, to be given by Alessandro Urbano of Eglise St. Martin de Dudelange, Luxembourg. Admission is free, but all donations will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch notice-board.

Confirmation Group:

A reminder to those confirmed last week that there will be a celebration and presentation of certificates this Sunday at 5.30pm. Please text Cheryl 07720 847511 for further details.

Door & Phone Cover:

Due to various changes in circumstances we are once again looking for volunteers to help with answering the door and taking phone calls during the week. We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also there are gaps in the rota for Thursday afternoon (12.00-3.00pm) and Friday afternoon (3.00pm onwards). If you could spare a couple of hours a week on a regular basis and would like to help, please contact Fr. Pat at pfc44@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed:

The popular **Highgate Fair in the Square** will take place on Saturday, June 11th from 12:30 to 5:30 pm. They need around 100 volunteers to help out on the day. If you are able to help, even if it is for an hour or two, please can you phone or email Betty Pires. Email: bettypires1503@gmail.com or tel: 07785925780.

Churches Together United Worship:

The next in the series of shared worship events taking place in the various churches in the Highgate area will be at 5.30pm this Sunday evening, 8th April, at Pond Square URC Chapel. Revd. Robert Willoughby from St. Michael's will be preaching on the theme of Ascension.

Volunteer at SPEC:

SPEC is part of Westminster Youth Ministry. Each year a number of young adults (aged 18-25) join the resident community for a year as volunteer missionaries. They help the community in its primary mission of retreat ministry for children and young people in the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Westminster. Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity for you - or someone you know - to combine a year of service with a year of formation in faith in a supportive Catholic community. More details are available at: <http://dowym.com/spec/> ; e-mail: spec@rcdow.org.uk , Phone: 020 3757 2500.

Free safeguarding training:

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) has worked with Educare to provide an online, interactive E-Learning safeguarding course which is now available to all in the Catholic Church. If you have a role (voluntary or paid) working with children/adults at risk or have an interest in safeguarding, the online training is a great opportunity to learn how to better protect children/ adults at risk in your care and community. Some of the modules available include: Child Exploitation & Online Safety and Adult Safeguarding. To register please email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk with your following details: parish/order/congregation, and your role e.g. parent, catechist leader. For more information please ask for a brochure from our safeguarding rep – Lorraine Redmond – or from the Parish office.

Free Window-Boxes!:

Now here's an unusual offer that surely you can't refuse! St Joseph's Primary school invite you to come along to a special workshop, during which you learn how to, and actually plant up a window box with seeds of seasonal food and flowers. And then you get to take home the window box and watch your handiwork mature to edible food and colourful flowers. If you're interested – and you don't have to be a parent or relative of anyone in the school – then come along this Wednesday morning, at 9.00am, to the school office. The workshop goes from 9.00 to 10.30am, and is **Free of Charge!**

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, and customer service. Full training will be given. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.