



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)

24th December 2017 – 4th Sunday of Advent



*The entire Passionist community in St. Joseph's take this opportunity
To wish you all a very special and Blessed Christmas.
May the Lord's love be as evident in your homes
As it was in that home in Nazareth long ago,
And may 2018 bring you many Blessings.*

We pray for those who have died recently - Brian Mpunga (a pupil in St. Aloysius School – we also keep his family in our prayers at this very said time for them), Lena Rozario-Martin (funeral 11.45am Thursday 28th December), Bridie Thompson (funeral 1.00pm Friday 5th January), Michael Muldowney, Philomena Shiels, Patricia Hind; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Elizabeth O’Gorman, Patrick O’Gorman, Pat Foran, Johnny Bulbrook, Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou (George Michael), Donal O’Donoghue, Nuala O’Kane, Ethelreda Carlisle.

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We’re Almost There!

At this stage it doesn’t look too likely that we’ll be having a White Christmas! What was great a couple of weeks ago for the children on their sleds down the various slopes around, was very dangerous for us more senior citizens, carefully picking our way along ice-bound footpaths. Thank God all that has passed for the present at least. And you may have noticed in the midst of the mayhem that the days have started stretching again – so in reality we’re heading once more towards the long summer evenings! It is only right that Christmas occurs at this time of the year. It is above all a feast of hope – hope brought to a world long ago by a Baby born to a simple couple, in an animal’s feeding-trough, hailed by simple shepherds, and acclaimed by the angels of heaven. Think of all the hopes we’ve invested in our relationships, especially our families and loved ones. The Lord’s coming has, in a sense, endorsed those hopes. He promises that His Coming, His participation in those hopes, brings the assurance that with His help they will be fulfilled. All we need do is make sure that He really is part of our family, that He really is counted among our loved ones! That’s our prayer, our hope, this Christmas.

Advent, Christmas, New Year Schedule:

The detailed list of events is available in the porch. Here’s a summary of the principle services.

Sunday, 24th Christmas eve: Sunday morning Masses at the normal times, but no 7pm Sunday evening Mass.

5.30pm – Children/Family Christmas Mass – children are encouraged to come dressed as angels or shepherds, and to bring their singing voices;

12 midnight – Mass, preceded by carol singing from 11.30.

Monday, Christmas Day – morning Masses only – at 8, 10 and 12. **No evening mass.**

Tuesday 26th Bank Holiday, Mass at 9.30am only. **No evening mass.**

Prayer Groups:

The Meditation group will not be meeting until after Christmas, and will resume on Friday 12th January.

The Charismatic Prayer Group also will not be meeting over the Christmas/New Year. Their meets resume at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 16th January.

Giving Tree:

Thanks once again to all of you who have been so generous in your donations for the Giving Tree. The main bulk of them – a mini-van full – were delivered to the Cardinal Hume Centre in time for their Christmas party earlier in the week, where they were rapturously accepted. By the time you read this I hope the remainder are hopefully on their way to equally needy individuals and families. (We had to remove the trees from the porch on Thursday, as people were still looking for tags to buy even more presents!) In a world where we come across much selfishness and apparent lack of concern for other, this outstanding extension of the spirit of Christian love is truly heart-warming! May the Lord’s reward be equally manifest in your homes.

100 Club Results:

The December Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 106 and the winners were: £400 E. Abbi (3), £100 Maureen Bocking (129), £50 Angela Bartley (54). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The January draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 21st January. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week’s collection amounted to £1,511. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, 2018 Calendars, St. Joseph’s Parish Diaries and the new Westminster Year Book are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.