



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)

24th April 2016 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Something to Chew On?

I was telling you last week of my few days in the sunshine of Spain. I'm not looking for any sympathy or anything, but this past week has been anything but a week of sunshine for me. Nothing to do with the weather, let me say. I'll admit that I've been very lucky over the years in that I have rarely suffered from toothache, apart from when I was very young and the solution to all toothaches seem to be to have another few fillings! (I'll never forget those old drills which seemed to make one's whole head vibrate!) Over the years various teeth have fallen out, but have managed to do it painlessly. So I was a little disappointed when during the week I had a whole night without being able to sleep, because of toothache. Not as bad as it might sound – I wasn't in pain all the time, because if I got out of bed and stood up, the pain went away. It was only while I was lying down that half my face ached! And I don't know about you, but I'm not able to sleep standing up! (Unlike the present Man Utd team, I hear some of you say!) Of course one of the effects of not having the pain while standing up was that I pretty much forgot about it the following day. But not so much that I didn't make sure to have a few pain killers available the following night, just in case. And with their help I managed to get about four hours sleep. Not great, but a lot better. But I could only manage about two very broken hours the next night.

By now you're probably asking yourself "why didn't he go to the dentist?" Apart from the fact that it wouldn't be my favourite activity, I didn't have a dentist, I hoped the pain would go away, I reckoned it would probably take for ever to get an appointment, etc. Any excuse to put it off! But at last the message got through, and I enquired about a dentist, contacted them, and was told I could get an appointment on the 5th of May! That's a lot of sleepless nights. No possibility of a cancellation, fitting in between patients, anything? "If you're prepared to wait maybe a very long time, you could come and try." "What's a very long time?" "Maybe an hour, hour and a half." If you've been waiting to get to sleep for eight hours through the night, even two hours seems short. To cut a long story short, I was in the dentist's office before the secretary had the phone down, was seen in half an hour, and two hours later was leaving minus a badly infected tooth. (Yes, it took two hours to get my jaw numb enough to have the extraction – so don't call me a numb-skull!)

And what's all this got to do with the price of turnips? Well our Gospel today begins just after Jesus has said to Judas – "What you going to do, do quickly", and in reality it's a frequent message of the Gospel, and our grandparents! Don't put off to tomorrow what you can do today. But Jesus is saying this in a far more important context – "I shall not be with you much longer just as I have loved you, you also must love one another." And many of our failings to show our love for one another come from "I'll get around to it sometime, maybe tomorrow." That apology that needs to be made; that visit to the sick or housebound person; that donation I've always promised myself I would make to that special cause; that special treat I know would be greatly appreciated; whatever! So often those delays are simply a way of saying "It's not really that important to me, actually." But for a true follower of Christ there is nothing more important than expressing our love not simply in good thoughts, but in good actions. Maybe it's time, as they say, to get our teeth into it! (Ouch!)

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We pray for those who have died recently – Bernadette Sullivan, David Baskerville; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Maisie Murray, Anne Gorman, Henri Jacques Laffont, Tom Doherty, Con & Ded Antrobus.

Confirmations:

Next week-end, at the 7 o'clock mass on Saturday, 30th April, a group of our young parishioners will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Nicholas Hudson, who is our local area Bishop. We thank our young people who have taken this important step in proclaiming and strengthening their faith, and pray that the Lord will always be close to them as they continue to grow in the Spirit. And a very special word of thanks to Cheryl who has prepared them for this wonderful day.

A reminder to the candidates that the final session of their Confirmation program is this Sunday, April 24th, at 5.00pm, followed by 7.00pm Mass, and this is compulsory for those candidates who are due to be Confirmed on April 30th. Any final letters need to be given in at this session and the names of sponsors need to be finalised. The rehearsal will take place at 7.00pm this Wednesday April 27th.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,657. 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, 28th April at 7.30pm, and will be performed by students of the Royal College of Music. Admission is free, but all donations towards the repair and maintenance of the organ will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch notice-board.

100 Club:

The April draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions are invited to do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Islington Year of Mercy Mass in St. Gabriel's:

As part of Islington Deanery's observance of the Year of Mercy, a special Mass for the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated at St. Gabriel's Church, Holloway Road, on Friday 6th May at 12.00. Mass will be followed by Adoration and anointing of the sick 12.30-1.30pm. The mass is open to all, but **the sick and housebound** of the parish are particularly invited to be there, and if there is any way we can help with getting them there, then please let us know. Contact Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com; or phone 07807 013752.

Planned Giving Boxes:

Still some to be collected!

Do You Gift-Aid?

The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by Gift-Aiding it – if you are a tax-payer. The Parish learns nothing about your private financial affairs. The average weekly collection, between plate and standing orders, is approximately £2000 a week. If only half of that was Gift-Aided, it would mean an extra £250 a week, or £13,000 a year, to Parish funds. We are genuinely grateful to those who have been Gift-Aiding. If you haven't been doing so already, and are in a position to Gift-Aid, perhaps you might think of doing so now. Forms are available from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email. PS – thanks to all the new people who have signed up over the last few weeks.

Apprenticeship on Offer:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery have a vacancy for a Facilities Services Apprentice. Working as a Facilities Support Assistant you will work alongside the Facilities Manager to ensure that the school buildings meet the needs of pupils, staff and the general public. You will support the management of services, such as security, parking and maintenance. If you can develop good working relationships with a wide range of people and enjoy organising, this could be the profession for you. For further information or to apply: <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/702580>

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 pfcp44@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. Thank you.