



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 1173084



Fr. Pat (pfc44@yahoo.com) Fr. George (gaskoloth@hotmail.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)

15th September 2019 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

...In With the New

September in a parish tends to be a very busy month. It's the time when all the planning for the coming year needs to be done. OK, much of it is going to be very similar to the previous year, but there is always the need for recruiting new people to help in the various ministries – especially for the First Communion program, where normally we depend on some of the parents of the new intake to lend a helping hand. We can't stress often enough the need for all to appreciate that it is the calling of us all as Christians to be living members of Christ's body, the Church. If there is a leg or an eye or a thumb not working properly, the whole body is affected and has to compensate for the deficiency. So, a word of encouragement – please give serious thought to how you can play your part in fostering and supporting the life of the parish.

One group I know I don't need to say to, are a very special group of pupils from St. Joseph's school. We will be having a very special ceremony for them during the 10 o'clock mass this Sunday. They, and their predecessors have been functioning in the school for the past number of years, and are now extending their ministry to the Parish. I am referring to our Pupil Chaplains. I can hear some of you saying – "I thought chaplains were priests, or nuns, and worked in hospitals and schools and the army, and such places." And you would be largely right. But we live in a changing world – and sometimes we need to be reminded that many of those changes can be for the better. And pupil chaplains are a good example. These are young people in year five and six, who have volunteered to take an active part in supporting all the children of the school in appreciating that their faith isn't simply another subject on the curriculum, but an essential part of living a fulfilled and happy life. They've gone through a searching interview process, and been given supportive training, and now they're ready to assume their role. At the 10 o'clock mass they will be commissioned, and receive their special school jumper – we thought it more suitable than roman collars! – and a special blessing. While their main ministry will continue to be in the school, they will also be taking a more active part in the parish worship – welcoming people, distributing hymn-books, and generally being helpful to people. I take this opportunity to thank them, and their families for supporting them in this wonderful expression of a living faith.

And now that there are so many new chaplains, it's time to get rid of some of the old – well, one of the old in particular. My Provincial superior, after discussion with myself and our superior General in Rome, has asked me to take up a much less onerous role in Paris. Subject to some formalities yet to be completed, Fr. George has been asked to take on the role of Parish Priest. These changes are scheduled to come into effect in the latter half of November, so I will have plenty opportunity in the meantime to thank you for all your support over the past eleven years.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Leonard Connor (funeral 11.30am Monday 16th September), John Girolami (Requiem Mass 11.00am Friday 20th September), Stephen John Cross, Kevin Barry, Joe Delaney, Annie Burns; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Martin Morrissey, Perry Clune, James & Margaret Driscoll, Margaret MacDonagh, Tom Webster Jnr.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are now available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is **accompanied by a baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the students, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as that being made by our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Coffee Morning:

We haven't got into a proper schedule of coffee mornings as yet, but in the meantime our next coffee morning will be happening next Sunday, 22nd September. A good opportunity to meet new parishioners, catch up on the holiday stories, and share plans for the new year. We look forward to meeting lots of you after the 10am Mass next Sunday, in the Red Room.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,353. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, 23rd November. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2020 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms will be available once the date is confirmed.

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

It is too early yet to know whether we will be having an RCIA course here this year. The course is free, and takes place if enough interest is expressed. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. George, so that we can have some idea as to what needs to be provided. Any members of the Parish who would like to take part and use the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of the faith, as well as sharing their experience of faith with others, are also very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let us know if you are interested.

CAFOD Information Afternoon:

Wed 18th Sept 2.30pm-4pm, CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a guest speaker, Laura Ouseley, who has first-hand experience of their work overseas. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place at CAFOD's Volunteer Centre, 1st Floor, Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London, N14 4HE. Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

Schools Open Days etc...

St Aloysius College, Highgate

Open evening Thursday Sept 26th 4.30-7.30pm

Open morning Sat Sept 28th 9-11am; Open mornings October 1st-3rd 9.15-10.30

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School – Admission for September 2020

Year 7 Admissions: Tuesday 17 September & Thursday 26 September 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm. Guided tours of the school will follow each speech.

Year 12 (Sixth Form) Admissions: Thursday 3 October and on Tuesday 15 October 2019

The Headmaster will speak at 5.00 pm. followed by guided tours of the school up to 6.00 pm.

Our Lady's Catholic High School – Hackney

Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 19th September 4pm to 8pm

Open Mornings Mon 16th – Fri 27th September 9.30-10.30am, Saturday 28th September 10.00-12.00am

CAFOD Fast Day:

We will be holding the annual CAFOD Fast Day collection after Masses next weekend. We are invited to fast one day during the week in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, and donate the money saved.

Prayer Group:

St. Joseph's Charismatic Prayer Group resumes meetings this Tuesday 17th September after the Summer break. The group meets at 7.30 p.m. in the Red Room of the Monastery. Everyone welcome.