



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

## 30th April 2017 – Third Sunday of Easter

### On The Road To .....

Where my mother came from was a little peninsula off a much bigger peninsula in the west of Ireland. What was particularly noteworthy about it – apart from the people (the salt of the earth!), of course – was that it was composed largely of sand. There were a few rocky areas at the tip of the peninsula, but otherwise it was simply sand covering a very sandy soil. Hence there were no trees growing there, as there was nothing solid enough for them to get their roots into sufficient to be able to withstand the Atlantic wind and rain. But, on the plus side, that same sandy soil was ideal for growing carrots and onions, and floury potatoes that burst out of their skins and smiled right up at you as they came out of the pot!

When I was growing up there was no road as such there, just triple tracks worn through the sand and grass; triple because the two wheels of the cart made the outside tracks and the horse made the central one. Of course there were no motor cars there then, so the journey to mass on a Sunday was made in a “pony and trap” – on week-days one went on the “horse and cart”. (Don’t ask me why he was a ‘pony’ on Sundays and a ‘horse’ the rest of the week!) The pony and trap might sound an idyllic way of travelling – no pollution issues other than the obvious, and that was never wasted but became instead great fertiliser! – but on a wet windy Sunday morning there was no real protection from the elements, and constantly sitting through mass while soaked to the skin must have shortened many a life.

So you can well imagine that once tar roads and motor cars arrived in the area people’s lives were greatly changed. Greatly, but not always entirely, for the better! In the old days, for instance, if two horse-and-carts happened to meet along the way, they would have to negotiate around one another – probably at the gate into a field. But there was no road rage involved! Instead it was an opportunity to rest the horses and have a good chat about whatever. And a lot of life was about chatting on the way from here or to there. With the arrival of the car all that gradually ended and people would just whiz by one another – probably at about 20 miles an hour! – maybe with a friendly wave, but no stopping for a chat – suddenly everybody seemed to be in a hurry to be somewhere, anywhere, else.

All this nostalgia was brought on by this Sunday’s gospel. The scene of the two guys walking along the road, chatting about the local news, and sharing together their re-action to the ‘recent events’, and being joined by whoever they met on the road, was a constantly recurring scene of my childhood. Even the fact that the person the guys in the gospel met happened to be Jesus, reminds me that that was a favourite theme of my granny – “always be kind to a stranger – it might be Jesus in disguise”. A bit different from what we hear nowadays – beware of strangers, they’re probably the devil in disguise. That’s kind of sad, really, and generally untrue and unfair.

And of course our gospel is reminding us that sharing is at the heart of the Christian way of life. Like with those two disciples on the road to Emmaus, it’s about the sharing of the Word – which they did along the road – and the sharing of the Bread – which they did around the table at home. I wonder sometimes do we really have any sense of ‘sharing’ in our Mass on Sunday. Maybe our gospel today is a bit of a wake-up call. This is not a time for simply whizzing by each other!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - May Miranda; we pray for those who have died recently – Fr. Charles Owen CP, Jos; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Frank Hughes, Florence Tharby, Emma Fiona May, Mary Hynes.**

### **Fr. Charles Owen R.I.P.:**

For the benefit of the many people who knew and loved Fr. Charles Owen during his very long service in St. Joseph's Parish – I believe he was stationed here for 23 years – we have organised to have his month's mind mass here in St. Joseph's at 6.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The principal celebrant will be Fr. John Kearns C.P., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province of the Passionists, and the homily will be given by his class-mate, Fr. Patrick McKeown C.P.

### **Bank Holiday:**

Don't forget that this Monday, being the first of May, is a bank holiday, and as usual there will be just the one Mass, at 9.30am.

### **Coffee Morning Next Sunday:**

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be next Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 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.

### **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Nursery Places:**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 they can start in our Nursery Class in September 2017 and we offer FREE full time nursery places 8:55-3:15. Please complete an application which - downloadable from our website (the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) - and if you are applying for a Catholic place, please also complete the priest reference. If this is the case we will also require sight of original Baptismal Certificate and for all applicants the original Birth Certificate which can be dropped in directly to the school office. Forms, Admissions Policy and criteria for offering places at the school, are available to download on the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/admissions-2017-2018/>

### **100 Club Results:**

The March Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 109 and the winners were: £400 J.M. David (183), £100 Bethanie (199), £50 Denis Kelleher (21). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The April draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Parish Stewardship Drive:**

A most sincere thank you to you all who participated in our recent Parish Stewardship Drive. It will take a month or two to be able to assess the financial impact, but initial indications are that the response has been very generous. But you will remember that we were also very anxious that many more people get involved in the various parish ministries, and there has also been a very generous response at this level. We will be contacting all those who offered their time and gifts in the very near future – and if you missed out, remember new volunteers are always welcome.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,771. In addition in the past month we have received over £5,000 in standing orders. We are most grateful for your outstanding generosity.

### **Planned Giving Boxes:**

We are now into a new tax year, so the planned-giving boxes for 2017-2018 come into operation. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes as soon as possible.

### **Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.**

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral. For the past few years members of our Parish have attended this very meaningful celebration. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating any of the above anniversaries this year, please give Fr. Pat (email or letter) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Pat will forward any details received to the Diocese, who will eventually issue the invitations directly to the couples involved.

### **Free Online 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](mailto:safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk) with your following details: your role e.g. parent, catechist leader; and parish/order/congregation in which you live – i.e. St. Joseph's Parish.