



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



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

17th July 2016 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holidays and Other Questions

It's been a very busy world recently! We've had the referendum, followed by political chaos, and eventually leading to the country having a new Prime Minister and a new cabinet. Internationally we've had the awful events in Nice, and we keep in our prayers all those killed or injured and their families and loved ones and ask that the Lord will comfort and strengthen them at this difficult time. And we're at present getting reports of the failed attempted coup in Turkey.

And it's been equally busy on the sporting front – European football and Wimbledon tennis just ending last week, and golf and cricket dominating this week, with the Olympics just on the horizon and the new football season just around the corner. So maybe it's time for all of us to relax a little more, and hopefully get into the mood for holidays. With schools being closed it is an opportunity for families to spend, as they say, some quality time together.

I'm sure you've noticed over the years how people's approach to holidays can differ so much. Some people see it as a time to do those things that they don't generally have time for – like travelling abroad (with their Irish passports in future??) or doing that hill-walking week in the Peak District, or something equally energetic that makes me tired to even think about. I've known friends to come back from their holidays declaring that they need a holiday to recover from the one they've had! Others like to just go somewhere – or even stay at home! – and just relax, maybe with family or friends, and slow down from the frantic pace of their normal lives.

It's not for me to say what kind of holiday anyone should take, but I just take this opportunity to pray that you all manage to get some time over the next while to spend time away from the normal routines of life and, as it were, re-charge the batteries and take time for yourselves and your loved ones to grow in your appreciation of one another. An appreciation, one might say, that was somewhat lacking between Martha and Mary in today's Gospel passage! Martha was not at all happy that all the work was being left to her, and Mary was basically on holiday. Some think Jesus is putting Martha down, but that would be to misunderstand Him. His use of "Martha, Martha" is an indication of His concern for her, and her apparent inability to just relax for a while and enjoy His company – something that maybe we should all be doing a bit more!

Just to quickly change the topic, I was asked after my recent hospitalisations, if I would be writing in the bulletin about it. As anyone who's been there knows, being in hospital is not exactly a holiday! But I couldn't help but be amused at a questionnaire I was asked to fill in as part of the admission process. There must have been about a hundred questions – have I ever suffered from this or from that; is there any history in my family of this or that; am I allergic to anything, and so on. I had got through about 40 questions when I was confronted by "Do you suffer from dementia?" If I had answered 'yes' what was the point of the 40 earlier questions – surely they couldn't rely on my answers! And if I answered 'no', how would they know to believe me? I suggested to the poor innocent who had given me the form, that perhaps they should have put this question first and saved a lot of trouble! I'll let you decide how I (should have?) answered it!!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – William Crawford; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Helena (Ena) Duffley, Dr. Leonard Goodchild, Martin Mulvee, Joseph Dunne; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Conleth O'Hara CP, Fr. Theodore Davey CP, Jane Bank, Jane McNally, Christopher McNally.

Thank You:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent good wishes and prayers on the occasion of my recent health problems. I am happy to say that all now appears to be back in order. Be assured of grateful remembrance in my masses and prayers.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,264. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

APF Red Boxes:

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes who have not recently returned them please bring them in as soon as possible (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so we can count them all together. If you completed a Gift Aid form please remember to fill in your details on the bottom of the box so that your donation can be identified.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

This pilgrimage to Knock shrine in the west of Ireland, is being organised directly by Go Trouvaille, and will be from 3rd – 8th October 2016, leaving from Stansted. £599 per person sharing. Price includes return airport transfer from parish, flights with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, luxury transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, situated in the Shrine grounds, beside the newly refurbished Basilica, with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, heritage excursions and guided tours in Co. Mayo included. Full assistance from your Go Trouvaille representative. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms available at a supplement of £60. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia anytime for all dates and availability on 01702 561757 - Mobile 07715 667 896 or email patricia@gotrouvaille.com. Go Trouvaille is an agent of Travel Assistance International – ATOL 4634.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23rd & 30th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6th August), near Colchester in Essex. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit www.svpboscocamp.org.uk for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

Tyburn Convent:

Monastic Afternoon at Tyburn Convent. Come and meet the Tyburn Nuns, find out what they do, and hear the story of the great Tyburn Martyrs. First Sunday of every month, 2 - 5.00pm. For further details contact Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place (on Bayswater Rd.) Tel: 020 7723 7262.

Charismatic Prayer Group:

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not be meeting during the summer break - from Tuesday 19th July 2016. Meetings resume 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 13th September 2016. God bless.

Updates:

It's been a little while since I've given an update on the works in the church, and the Growing in Faith Fund. Hopefully the roof work has now been totally completed, and we appear to be waterproof at last! A tender for the painting of the walls is almost ready for agreement, and there is every possibility that the work will begin in September, if not before. With regard to Growing in Faith, the total donated to date is just short of £79,200, which is just more than a third to the total amount pledged, £213,806. But those figures will be substantially increased as they are mostly gift-aided. Thanks to you all for your continuing generosity and patience.

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them - have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here. All we ask is that, if possible, you let the patient concerned know that you've asked us to call. It can be a little frightening for some sick people, especially of the older generations, if suddenly a priest turns up at their sick-bed!