



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

## 9th April 2017 – Palm Sunday A Matter of Death and Life

I was sitting down in my office getting ready to write the weekly article for the bulletin, when I happened to glance out the window and saw the glorious sunlight reflected on the buildings opposite. Looking up, there wasn't a single wisp of a cloud to be seen in the sky. I don't mind admitting that for a fleeting second the thought crossed my mind that maybe the bulletin could wait, and I should avail of this wonderful day the Lord has sent. But I knew that I wouldn't really enjoy a walk in the park if I was still going to have to face the inevitable when I got back. So I raised my mind to a slightly higher plane, and considering the week-end that's in it, I was drawn to the thought that this was probably the kind of day that the people were experiencing in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.

I've never been to the Holy Land, so I've really no great idea of what the weather is like in the different seasons of the year, so I thought to myself – I can spare a few moments, let me check it on google. So I dutifully typed in "weather in Jerusalem in April". As usual I was overwhelmed by the 635,000 results it produced in .58 of a second! But I decided, on reflection, to give that idea a miss – because glancing through the headings from the first screen I could see that most of the sites were holiday sites, seeking to encourage would-be tourists that they need have no weather worries should they decide to travel there. I don't imagine there are too many Irish tourist sites that would be drawing people's attention to the fact that they might have endure a few 'soft days' while they were there!

But the tourist sites did remind me that, in a sense, we are all being invited to travel to Jerusalem during this coming week, but most definitely is not as tourists – going along, as it were, to see the sights. So it is important as we set out on that journey that we are clear in our minds what it is we are hoping to achieve. It's not simply a trip down memory lane, as it were, reminding us of the events of that first Holy Week. The wonder, the power, the glory of Holy Week is that it is forever new, forever present, forever relevant.

During this coming week we're invited to travel along with Jesus, as He takes the weight of our worries and cares, of our faults and our failings, and transforms them in the mystery of our Redemption. We set out on a journey with Him from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, a journey that takes us from the hopes raised that Jesus would be the acclaimed Messiah whose Kingdom all people would accept, through the institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, and on into the betrayal, by disciples and people in general, that led to His crucifixion and death on Good Friday, that He might finally rise to new life on Easter Sunday.

We're invited during this coming week to travel along with Jesus, not as spectators, but as participants; participants who can readily recognise so much of themselves in the various characters of the story – the fickleness of the crowd, the betrayal of trust by Judas, the cowardice of Peter and the other apostles, the blindness to truth of the Sanhedrin, the cynicism and lack of willingness to take responsibility of the Romans, the gentleness and suffering of Mary, the generosity and bravery of Veronica and Simon, the awe of the Roman soldier by the cross. Our hope is that we can be transformed by our participation in this mystery, and that we too will rise with Him to New life.

-----00000OOO00000-----

**We pray for the sick of the Parish** - Fr. Charles Owen CP; **we pray for those who have died recently** – William Crawford, Denis Rooney (Requiem Mass 5.00pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April), Heidi Corsi (SVP: funeral at St.Mary's Hampstead 2.00pm Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April), Fred Seed, Josie Amooty, Janette Faherty Wright; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Fr. Hubert Condron CP, Catherine (Kitty) Press, Richard Harris, Mr & Mrs Norman Hurst, Peter Davis, Michel Cootus, Leo Kenny, Edward McKernan.

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**

There are leaflets available at the back of the church with details of services over the next couple of weeks. We just give you here a brief summary of the main events. (Also available on our website)

**Holy Thursday** – Mass of Lord's Supper at 8 pm, followed by Exposition at the Altar of Repose.

**Good Friday**        10.30 am. - Service for children.  
                             12.00 noon - Stations of the Cross.  
                             3.00 pm. – Liturgy of the Passion.  
                             7.30 pm – The Seven Last Words.

**Holy Saturday** – no services during the day  
                             9.00 pm Solemn Easter Vigil.

**Easter Sunday** – Masses at the usual times, including evening mass at 7.00 pm.

### **Fr. Charles:**

Thanks to the very many of you who have expressed your concern about the present illness of Fr. Charles, and your prayers are very much appreciated. Thanks too to the many who have taken the trouble to visit him in the Hospice. Unfortunately we have to say at this point that he is continuing to get weaker, and he and the Hospice have asked that you no longer attempt to contact him directly, but instead make any enquiries through his Superior, Fr. Mark, in Herne Bay. The phone number for the Herne Bay community is 01227375095.

### **Good Friday Procession of Witness:**

As well as our own Holy Week liturgies there will be the usual Good Friday Procession of Witness with Churches Together in Highgate, beginning at 9.30am from All Saints Church, Talbot Rd./Church Rd. and proceeding via St. Augustine's Church on Archway Road and St. Joseph's, to Pond Square URC Chapel for a service at 10.30am followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns.

### **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/>

### **Parish Stewardship Drive:**

A most sincere thank you to you all who participated in our Parish Stewardship Drive over the past number of weeks. It is too early yet to realistically assess its effectiveness, but the early indications are very positive. As soon as we can after Easter we will bring you up-to-date information.

### **Lenten Projects:**

Thanks to all of you who have been so generous in your support of our Lenten Projects this year. Remember, the two charities we are supporting are (1) the Passionist priests who are working with the disaster-stricken people, and especially children, of Haiti, and (2) the Cardinal Hume Centre here in London which provides emergency and longer-term help to those struggling to survive in our capital.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,620. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

### **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 at the back of the church after any of the masses over the next few week-ends. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please let the people distributing the boxes know, and they will assign you a box number.

### **Prayer Groups:**

The Christian Meditation Group will not meet over the Easter period. The group will resume on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. The Charismatic Prayer Group will resume meetings 7.30 pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Church Cleaning Fest:**

A very sincere thank you to all who turned up for the cleaning of the church on Friday afternoon. As usual the event was meticulously organised by Roxane, even to the point of providing a beautiful sunny afternoon so that no speck of dust had any shadow to hide in, and who made sure there was an abundant supply not only of cleaning equipment, but even more importantly, deserved and much appreciated refreshments!