



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)

6th October 2019 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Next weekend (13th October) John Henry Newman will be canonised a saint. Many are aware of the role Blessed Dominic Barberi – a Passionist priest who brought the Passionist Congregation to England – played in Newman's conversion. However less well-known is the story of Father Ignatius Spencer, another Passionist and ancestral relative of Princes William and Harry, and his attempts to get Newman to pray for Christian unity. Because of an attack of consumption, Ignatius had been moved to the seminary at Oscott College where he was the spiritual director of the students. During 1840, Ignatius decided to get as many people as possible to pray for Christian unity and so he went to visit Newman in Oxford and ask him for his prayers. Newman was still a leading Anglican, and Catholics were not allowed to pray with Protestants.

The proposal to pray together for Christian unity was breaking new ground, and could be seen as the seed-bed for the ecumenical movement. Reading the accounts of both Newman and Ignatius it would appear at first sight that this proposal was a disaster. Newman refused to dine with Ignatius in Oxford; however, Newman wrote later in his *Apologia* that he had been "very rude to that most zealous and charitable man." Years later Newman explained that he felt it would be inappropriate for him, as a leading Anglican, to be seen associating with a man (Ignatius) who had renounced the Anglican tradition and become not only a Catholic, but a Catholic priest. Ignatius knew that he had not achieved what he had set out for. He used a military image to describe the meeting with leading Anglicans: "I sailed right down into the centre of the enemy's fleet, and my little ship has been terribly battered and mauled, but I made good my retreat with colours at the masthead and I look forward to a glorious victory." Little did he know that five years later Father Dominic would receive Newman into the Church.

Ignatius, as a member of one of the wealthiest families in England, was only too aware of the possible influence he could have on the leading members of the Anglican church. Famously Newman had written "If they [Catholics] want to convert England, let them go barefooted into our manufacturing towns – let them preach to the people like St. Francis Xavier – let them be pelted and trampled on, and I will own that they do what we cannot. I will confess that they are our betters by far." For Ignatius Spencer and Fr. Paul Mary Pakenham, children of some of the wealthiest families in Britain, the call of Jesus to renounce everything and follow him was a very powerful call. Poverty, in its Religious sense, is not about the absence of wealth, but rather it is about recognising that everything we have is a gift from God, and so should be used accordingly. It is a spirituality ideally suited to the Green and Environmental movements of the present time.

Ignatius believed that England had lost a tremendous wealth in the Reformation, in particular the Eucharist and devotion to Mary. His whole life as a Passionist was to work to bring people back to the faith of Rome. Interestingly he did not envisage the Churches amalgamating, but rather working together for a common purpose: spreading the message of a God of love, preaching the Gospel or Good News – a love that was so vividly demonstrated in the Passion of Jesus. Consequently, when he met with the Pope he asked the Pope to stop describing Anglicans as "heretics" and rather refer to them as "separated brethren." It was because of this attitude that Ignatius wished to work closely with John Henry Newman. Please God, with Newman canonised, Dominic and Ignatius may soon follow in his footsteps.

Fr. Ben C.P.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Peter McNally (funeral Tuesday 8th October, 11.00am), Laurence Vambe (funeral Wednesday 9th October 2.30pm), Leo Hamilton (funeral Thursday 10th October, 11.00am), Michele Feely, Rose Watson, Kevin Rathour, Anne Marie Beaty; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Dan Murphy, Georgina Moriarty, Julia McIntyre, Pa Joe Buckley, Dr. Ernest Cooke, Harry Flemming.

First Holy Communion:

The first session for the First Communion program starts this morning, 6th October for Group A, and next Sunday, 13th October, for Group B. The groups have been allocated and details of schedules sent to parents/carers during this past week. The lists are also on the inner doors in the porch of the church. From now until the middle of next June close on sixty children from our Parish will be learning about their need for spiritual food, and growing in their appreciation of the wonderful gift that the Lord has left us in the sacraments – particularly Eucharist and Reconciliation. It is important that we bring the “little children” to Jesus. It is important that they feel his near presence in their lives – that He can “put his arms round them” and give them his blessing. This is a special time, not just for these children and their families, but for the entire parish. We all have a role in helping them grow in their appreciation and respect for all that Jesus means. And especially we are called upon to pray that this will be a year of special blessing for them, for their families, and for our parish.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,368. 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 can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Harvest Sunday:

This Sunday, 6th October, we are celebrating Harvest Sunday. It is still not too late to bring gifts of food for distribution to the poor of the area (long-dated non-perishable foodstuffs, e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, etc.).

Parish Centre Jumble Sale:

Our Parish Centre is fundraising to renew the heating system. There will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday 12th October, 11.00am-3.00pm. Used Clothing, Good as New, Bric-a-brac, etc...

Parish Bazaar – November 16th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 16th of November just **six weeks away**. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can start sorting. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl, felicitymaynard@hotmail.com. And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

Schools Open Days etc...

LSU - Open afternoons 8th & 9th October 1.30-3.00pm

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School – Year 12 (Sixth Form) Admissions for September 2020 - 15th October 2019; The Headmaster will speak at 5.00 pm. followed by guided tours.

Extraordinary Month of Mission:

This October, Pope Francis has called the whole Church to reflect upon our response to Jesus Christ's command to 'go and make disciples of all the peoples'. This 'Extraordinary Month of Mission' is being celebrated in parishes worldwide throughout October 2019. There are prayer cards for the month, as well as special editions of *Mission Today* available in the church porch. They include a short reflection for every day of October to help us reflect on our call to be missionaries. Prayers of the Faithful for the whole month, Holy Hours, and a daily calendar for children are all available to download at missio.org.uk/EMM. It promises to be a wonderful moment of prayer, joy and solidarity by Catholics across the globe. Please do join in.

Westminster Youth Ministry Summit:

Join Westminster Youth Ministry for **The Summit** at Westminster Cathedral, an evening of inspiring speakers, live music and Eucharistic adoration. **The Summit** is aimed at 13-25yrs from across the diocese and will be on **Friday 18 October, 6:30-8pm**. The evening will include exposition and a talk by **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, as well as inspiring speakers, including Brenden Thompson of Catholic Voices, and a live praise and worship band. Families, classes, youth groups, confirmation groups and whoever else are all welcome. For more information, visit <https://dowym.com/events/the-summit-westminster-cathedral/> or email youth@rcdow.org.uk.