



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Fr. Pat (pfcp44@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)

29th September 2019 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mind The Gulf

I suppose it would be rather churlish not to begin our Bulletin this week with some words of congratulations? So, very hearty congratulations, and 'well done' to the Japanese rugby team in managing to defeat the Irish this (Saturday) morning. And, of course, it would be equally remiss of me not to congratulate the Irish team in being so exceptionally good-mannered, and kind-hearted, towards their hosts, by playing well below the standard they are capable of, and disguising it so convincingly, so as not to embarrass the Japanese team on their home soil! (As one gets older, one learns to become a bit of an optimist! Others might call it a little bit of 'spin-doctoring' – but, whatever!)

And talking of spin-doctoring, what an awful week it has been for those of us who believe in democracy, with serious questions being asked about the fitness to govern of some of the world's present leaders. I'm not one to ever use the phrase "no smoke without fire" because I'm as aware as the next person that very often smoke is being deliberately generated in the hopes that we won't be able to see through it to the realities it attempts to hide. I feel sorry for the many politicians, from a cross-section of the various parties, who now seem to realise that if a general election were called it would be more of a lottery than an election – not what the founders of democracy had in mind! How can politicians keep a straight face and say that the actions of other politicians are politically motivated? Isn't that what they're supposed to be, or are they suggesting that 'politically' has become a bad word? A system meant to unite peoples is being deliberately manipulated so as to sow divisions instead.

Our gospel today is set in a world equally divided – in ways that we are still all too familiar with today – the rich and the poor side by side, but worlds apart. In a way it can be seen as one of Jesus's most cleverly constructed stories – in that it is presented as taking place in the next world, while in reality Jesus is very clearly talking about the present world. That becomes clear when we come to the end, and he refers to those who won't believe even should someone – Himself! – rise from the dead. If we then re-read the story and see it as being about the present world, we understand in a different way what Jesus means when he talks about "between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours". That gulf has not been fixed by God! It's been fixed by those who are happy to see a world where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Our gospel today is inviting us to "mind the gulf". And that means first of all being aware of it, and where we stand in relation to it. In the overall context of Jesus's teaching this is not a condemnatory passage. It's inviting us not to abuse our position, but rather use it to help others less well off; not to push back those who work hard to better themselves and their families but to reach out a helping hand. Let us be convinced, because Someone *has* risen from the dead.

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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, Margaret Millan, Bernard France; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Arthur James Cross, Nora Fitzgibbon, Ruby Lobo, Peter, Alice & John Saunders, Tom & Mary Finnegan, Antoniette Gerrard Coppel, Stephen Rosmussen, Agnes Murphy.

First Holy Communion:

Today, Sunday 29th September, is the **deadline for the return of application forms** for the First Communion Program. 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 still 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**. For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. The first classes will be starting NEXT Sunday, 6th October. All families will be informed by email during the week as to which group their children have been assigned. 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,430. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Last week's CAFOD Fast Day Collection raised £574.

Harvest Sunday:

Next Sunday, 6th October, will be our Harvest Sunday. We invite you 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.).

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

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. Please let us know if you are interested.

100 Club:

The September Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 123 and the winners were: £400 L. Kinsella (46), £100 Caitriona Kelly (131), £50 Mrs. P.M. Fox (32). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The October draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 20th October. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

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...

Schools Open Days etc...

St Aloysius College, Highgate-

Open mornings October 1st-3rd 9.15-10.30

LSU-

Open mornings 2nd & 3rd October 9.00-10.30am; Open afternoons 8th & 9th October 1.30-3.00pm

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School – Year 12 (Sixth Form) Admissions for September 2020-

3rd October and 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.