



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



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**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)

## 18th June 2017 – Corpus Christi

### CONVENIENCE FOOD

It always brings a wry smile to my face when people tell me how convenient air travel is nowadays. “Imagine, just over an hour from London to Dublin. Isn’t it wonderful?” People who say such things are clearly people who don’t travel very much between London and Dublin! To be honest, on those all-too-rare (sob, sob) occasions when I do make the journey, I make sure to leave Highgate at least three hours before my flight is due to take off. This of course is to allow for the journey to the airport – usually Stansted – and all the possible delays that might happen. But that’s just the first hurdle!

The next one is the security check. I don’t think it’s possible nowadays to imagine a security check without seeing lines of people backing and forthing through a maze of barriers. They generally move reasonably quickly, but would take only half the time if people in the line realised that there was a security check at the end of it, and were ready for it! It’s amazing how many people seem to be taken by surprise and suddenly realise they’ve got to get their coats off, all metal out of their pockets, lap-tops out of their bags, etc. And now that they think we’re all walking around with lethal weapons in our shoes one often has to remove them as well, revealing many a big toe suddenly exposed to the fresh air!

To cut a long story short, if I can get from St. Joseph’s Highgate to Mount Argus in Dublin in less than six hours, I think I’ve done reasonably well. Convenience isn’t always all that it’s cracked up to be!

It would have been far more convenient, for instance, if Jesus had said at the Last Supper – “Look, here’s a special recipe that I’m leaving with you. Every time you make this dish and eat it together, I want you to remember me and this last meal we’re having together.” Convenient, but not very adventurous. Now, there’s a strange word to use about the Eucharist – adventurous. And surely, in the very deepest meaning of that word, that’s what our celebration of the Eucharist, and this special Feast of Corpus Christi should be – an *adventure*, an exciting *coming* together with the Lord.

Each time we receive the Eucharist we set out on an adventurous journey – not just from our seat to the altar, but the journey of faith from seeing bread to receiving the living body of Christ. We may not have to remove our shoes – although, interestingly, that’s the custom in other religions – but we do need to check in a lot of the baggage that holds us back from sharing fully in the banquet of the Lord.

This Sunday and next about 60 of our young people will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. It marks a very special day for them and for their families. It marks the first steps in the next phase of their journey of faith, and like all first steps they need a guiding and supporting hand. Hopefully as a Parish we will do our part in helping them to appreciate what a wonderful honour it is to be invited as it were to sit at the table of the Lord. But it is in their homes above all that they will learn of the importance of this heavenly food for the nourishing of their spiritual lives, lives that we pray will be lived in genuine love of all, but especially those most in need in our world. So we pray for their families too, that this will be a time of renewal of their appreciation of this most beautiful and sacred of gifts from the Lord.

We pray you will have a wonderful day, and may your celebration, not your socks, be holy!

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**We pray for those who have died recently - Michael Kelly; we remember those whose anniversaries occur** – Fr. Michael Connor, Paul Sutton, Connell McDwyer, Renata & Peter Rosendale, Andrée Goffart, Billy O’Neill, Mary Deeley, Tanoo Mylvaganam.

### **First Communions:**

At the 12.00 Masses this week-end and next, about sixty of our young people will be making their First Holy Communions. This naturally means that there will be a great increase in the numbers attending those masses. Those who regularly attend the 12 o'clock mass are of course very welcome to come. We just want to forewarn you that the entire front portion of the church will be reserved for the children and their families, and we expect that there will also be much crowding in the rear section of the church. So you might want to consider coming to a less crowded celebration, but if you're prepared to endure the crowding – and admire the fashion! – you are most welcome to attend.

Group B will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grenfell Tower Fire:**

The Secretary of State in the Vatican has sent the following message:-

*His Holiness Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the devastating fire in London and of the tragic loss of life and injury. He entrusts the souls of those who have died to the Lord's loving mercy and offers his heartfelt condolences to their families. With appreciation of the brave efforts of the emergency service personnel and all committed to supporting those who have lost their homes, His Holiness invokes up the local community God's blessings of strength and peace.*

Cardinal Vincent Nicholls offered a special Mass on Saturday afternoon for those who have suffered injury, those who have died, and all the residents who are left without a home, and the entire community that has been affected.

Westminster Diocese has established an emergency relief fund, which will be distributed through Caritas Westminster and other Catholic charities working in the community. A special donations page has been set up on the diocesan website ([rcdow.org.uk](http://rcdow.org.uk)) with a direct link from the home page.

For up-to-date information on practical needs or volunteering, please see the Kensington & Chelsea Borough website [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk).

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,650. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Next weekend we will have the annual Peters Pence collection for Papal charities after all Masses.

### **Mary's Meals:**

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) and will be at our church until 12 noon on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 4 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

### **Children's Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

### **"Called to Serve the Sick Roadshows":**

Three evening meetings have been arranged to allow clergy and laity an opportunity to discover and question... *How Catholics can realise their unique vocation of being of service the sick*: at Our Lady and St Michael's, Garston, Watford, Mon. 19th June 7pm for 7.30pm; *How to think theologically about health*: at St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm. For registration please email Fr Peter Scott: [peterscott@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:peterscott@rcdow.org.uk)

### **The Art of Dying Well – New Website:**

This is the name of a new website, not in any way morbid, and produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying – either one's own, or that of someone close. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the final journey. Expert advice has been sought from professionals in palliative care, ethics, chaplaincy, history and media. Please take a look at the website: [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org).