



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

## 21th May 2017 – Sixth Sunday of Easter Manifest Commitment!

I've never really got used to the idea of celebrating the Ascension on a Sunday. To my subconscious it will always be Ascension Thursday. That thought just came into my mind, because I was wondering whether I should put a notice on the notice page this week reminding people that we would be celebrating the Ascension next Sunday, rather than Thursday. In the end I decided against it, fearing that there might be other people out there like me, and I would just end up confusing them. So I'm not going to mention Ascension Thursday.

But before going any further I just want to take a moment to congratulate our young people who received their Confirmation last week-end. I trust that the Spirit that has been given them will help them deal with what can be a very confusing world sometimes, and that they will use that same Spirit to guide them in making wise decisions in life. It is a very encouraging sign for a parish to see so many young people coming forward and publicly professing their own personal commitment to their faith. It is not to say that they are fully formed in the faith as yet – they have the university of life ahead of them still – but when those times of trial come they will be better prepared to deal with them in a positive way. Special thanks have to go to Cheryl for the extraordinary amount of commitment and time she puts in year after year in preparing for this special time. It is that commitment, as much as any words that may have been used, that hopefully will inspire the “class of 2017”. Thanks also to the many others who helped at various times and in different ways.

Talking of commitment – it really is a frightening word for many people nowadays. How often do we hear people say things like – “I don't want to make a commitment at this stage, I want to keep my options open as long as possible”; “I'll help out as best I can, but I can't make any commitment”. How many, for instance, of the obscenely paid footballers of this age have any real commitment to their clubs or their fans; and vice-versa, it might be said. With such a shying away from commitment it has now almost become a dirty word – don't ask me to make a commitment!

Unless I'm a politician, of course, running for election! And then I'm happy to make all the commitments in the world! I don't mean to be cynical – and really amn't – but does anyone believe any of the ‘commitments’ the people of all parties make at a time like this? I have even heard some commentators referring to what is going on at present as “part of the game” of politics. Unfortunately we live in a world where for many people even survival – having a home and enough food to eat – is certainly no game. This is a very serious time, and one where the real commitment we should be looking for from our government is to what Jesus refers to in today's gospel as keeping his commandments. He doesn't say keeping the 10 commandments, but his commandments – by which he means loving God, by loving and respecting everybody. And particularly the weakest. Commitment is not a game – but it can be a real joy! I see lots of families who prove it!

In today's gospel Jesus is preparing his disciples for the fact that he isn't going to be with them for much longer. They are sharing a Last Supper, which will be shortly followed by his mock trial and eventual execution. But he wants to re-assure them that it's not the end – he will rise again. And when he has ascended to the Father he will send them the Spirit – “that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him.” He makes them a commitment – “I will not leave you orphans”. It's a commitment we can believe – one that can bring us a deep joy. He is never far from us, looking after us at all times. We just need to welcome him into our lives, our homes, our hearts.

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**We pray for those who have died recently - Tom Kenny; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Fr. Peter Paul O'Connor CP, Carmel Morris, Michael Whelton, Michael Traynor, Joaquim Lobo, Tom Lucitt, Mary Hawkins (née Deeley), Norah Keogh, Jean Crawford.**

### **Shared International Lunch:**

To celebrate Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch on Sunday 4th June 2017 at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is a new venture, designed to encourage people to get to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

### **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/>

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,651. In addition we receive an average of £800 per week in standing orders. We are most grateful for your outstanding generosity.

### **Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.**

We already have three couples from the parish signed up for this annual event which will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral. For the past few years members of our Parish have attended this very meaningful celebration. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating any of the above anniversaries this year, please give Fr. Pat (email or letter) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Pat will forward any details received to the Diocese, who will eventually issue the invitations directly to the couples involved.

### **Confirmation Photos:**

Photos are now on the photographer's website and are truly beautiful. There is a 10% discount code which is valid until May 27 which is STJO10. If you don't have the website address please contact Cheryl ([felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com)). We ask everyone to try and buy at least a couple of pictures to support the photographer so he will come back again next year.

**Reminder to newly-confirmed: Post-Confirmation Celebration**, Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm- cost included in the programme. Venue details from Cheryl ([felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com)). Some more RSVPs would be helpful as we currently have no idea who is coming.

### **100 Club:**

The May draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **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.

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

(We repeat this notice from time to time as a reminder.) People sometimes have difficulties 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 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 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!