



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

10th July 2016 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Giving a Clear Message!

I even got up out from my sick-bed to vote in the referendum! No wonder I had a kind of relapse when I discovered the result! I can't imagine anybody could have anticipated the fall-out – particularly on the political and economic fronts. And the reported surge in racist behaviour is even more shameful.

It brought to my mind a referendum held in Ireland in 2008. It was on the question of the Treaty of Lisbon, and the Irish were berated throughout Europe for voting against it. You might well be asking "What was the Treaty of Lisbon?", and the problem was that apparently the majority of people who were being asked to approve of it were asking the same question – what was it about? I can't personally say whether I would have voted 'yes' or 'no' – in common with most of the population of Europe, I hadn't then, or since, actually read the document. At a broad level most people accepted that many adjustments needed to be made to the constitution of the European Union in order to cater for the fact that many new countries had been, or were soon to be, admitted. Ireland's economy has benefitted greatly from its membership of the Union - although not solely for this reason – and certainly everyone would wish that other weaker economies would enjoy the same benefits. So what was the problem?

The problem was that nobody translated the treaty for us! Or maybe it would be more accurate to say that everybody was prepared to translate it for us, and there were as many translations as there were people! Is it really promoting equality among Europeans to write such documents in a language that they all equally don't understand? Except possibly lawyers! (Better be careful here, we have some legal people in our Parish!) And many are now asking, if people had really understood the full implications of this latest referendum would they have voted as they did?

It's not like your Parish Bulletin to be getting so serious about stuff, but what I'm really trying to highlight is not any political stance, but the importance of being aware of the need to communicate clearly – no matter in what situation – at home, at work, even at prayer! The good communicators are those who are aware of what the people they are communicating with will take from what they say. One sympathises with the poor priest who was doing his best at the Baptism of baby Thomas, whose little 4 year-old brother was intently watching and listening to everything that was going on. As they were driving home afterwards, he sat very quietly and rather sadly in the back seat of the car, until his mother finally enquired as to what was the matter. "The priest said Thomas was blessed because he is going to be brought up in a Christian home - but I want him to stay with us", was the unexpected reply.

Not surprisingly, Jesus was a master communicator. There is no jargon or remote terminology in his message. There is no mistaking the meaning of stories like the good Samaritan - which is our Gospel reading this Sunday - or of sayings like "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." It's only when we start introducing 'ifs' and 'buts' and 'maybe's' that we begin to confuse the simplicity of His teaching. No wonder the gospels talk of Jesus feeling sorry for us – harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd – in other words, very prone to getting lost.

Time, especially after that referendum, to say 'Yes' – yes to His call to all of us to not only be a united loving people, but to bring the message of His love to a world that so desperately needs it!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish – William Crawford; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Dr. Leonard Goodchild (funeral 11.00am Tuesday 12th July), Martin Mulvee (funeral 1.00pm Wednesday 13th July), Sylvio Binelli, William (Billy) O'Neill, Danny Mahan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – David O'Sullivan, Peter, Alice & John Saunders, Michael Boyle.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,576. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. The Peter's Pence collection for Papal charities amounted to £471.

Mary's Meals:

I received the following message during the week from the organisers of Mary's Meals -

A very big 'thank you' for allowing Mary's Meals to have its Rags to Riches collection at the Catholic church of St Joseph last Sunday. I am delighted to say that the parish managed to give 345kg of unwanted clothes and donations of £996.76 making a **total contribution of £1,219.26**. Please let the parish know how grateful Mary's Meals is for its support – this is a really good result! The amount raised will feed 100 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too.

APF Red Boxes:

Would holders of *Missio* (APF) red collecting boxes who have not recently returned them please bring them in as soon as possible (or hand them in to the monastery during the week) so we can count them all together. If you completed a Gift Aid form please remember to fill in your details on the bottom of the box so that your donation can be identified.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

This pilgrimage to Knock shrine in the west of Ireland, is being organised directly by Go Trouvaille, and will be from 3rd – 8th October 2016, leaving from Stansted. £599 per person sharing. Price includes return airport transfer from parish, flights with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, luxury transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, situated in the Shrine grounds, beside the newly refurbished Basilica, with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, heritage excursions and guided tours in Co. Mayo included. Full assistance from your Go Trouvaille representative. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms available at a supplement of £60. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia anytime for all dates and availability on 01702 561757 - Mobile 07715 667 896 or email patricia@gotrouvaille.com. Go Trouvaille is an agent of Travel Assistance International – ATOL 4634.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23rd & 30th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6th 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 for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

Tyburn Convent:

Monastic Afternoon at Tyburn Convent. Come and meet the Tyburn Nuns, find out what they do, and hear the story of the great Tyburn Martyrs. First Sunday of every month, 2 - 5.00pm. For further details contact Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place (on Bayswater Rd.) Tel: 020 7723 7262.

Passage Day Centre:

The Passage are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help in our kitchen during our breakfast and lunch services for homeless people. Duties will include serving food and drink, helping to prep food, tidying and washing up. We are looking for regular weekly commitment, please get in touch volunteering@passage.org.uk or 020 7592 1863. Full details for these and other roles can be found on our website www.passage.org.uk/volunteering

Christmas Bazaar:

No, we haven't written off the summer despite the recent weather, just giving advance notice of the date for our annual Christmas Bazaar: **Saturday 19th November**, so you can get it into your diaries in good time!

Charismatic Prayer Group:

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not be meeting during the summer break - from Tuesday 19th July 2016. Meetings resume 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 13th September 2016. God bless.

Volunteer Mentors:

Feltham Community Chaplaincy Trust (FCCT) are looking for volunteers to mentor young imprisoned men. It is possible for this ministry to fit in with your existing commitments. No experience is required, just a passion for Christ and His teachings. Full training is provided. Contact FCCT directly for more information on 020 8844 5585 or ccfeltham@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

In case you are admitted to hospital:

In light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also let them know that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.