



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

e-mail: [joseph.highgate@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.highgate@gmail.com) : website: [www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat ([pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)) Fr. Tiernan ([tiernanpc@gmail.com](mailto: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

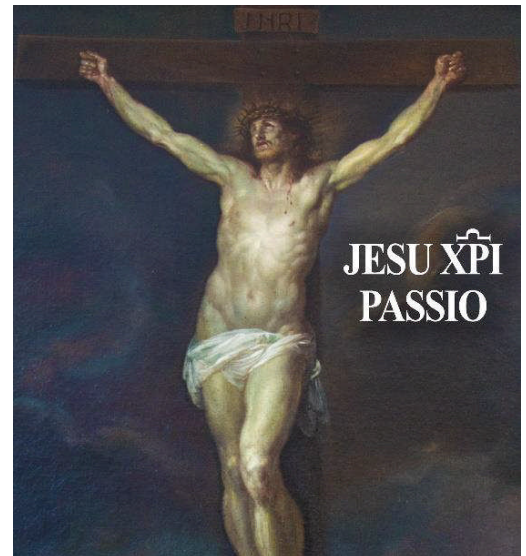
**Weekdays:** immediately after Mass (on request)

## 20th March 2016 – Palm Sunday Thoughts on the Passion

The Church in her wisdom, leads us into Holy Week with the Story of the Passion. This year it is the version according to Luke. This is an effective way of keeping the Passion powerfully in our hearts and thoughts for the days leading up to, and including Good Friday, where again we hear John's version and stay buried with Christ until we celebrate 'rising ' with him on Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. To assist you with some meditative thoughts for this Week I would like to share some inspirational texts that come from our Passionist Rule. Since you belong to a Passionist parish I thought it would be wonderful to share some of these words about our Charism with you. You may find these words worthy of your meditation during next week and pray for us Passionists who have taken an extra vow to promote the memory of the Passion in people's hearts.

Keenly aware of the evils that afflicted the people of his time, St. Paul of the Cross never tired of insisting that the most effective remedy is the Passion of Jesus, - the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love -

- We are aware that the Passion of Christ continues in this world until he comes in glory; therefore, we share in the joys and sorrows of our contemporaries as we journey through life towards the Father. We wish to share in the distress of all, especially those who are poor and neglected; we seek to offer them comfort and relieve the burden of their sorrow.
- The power of the Cross, which is the wisdom of God, gives us strength to discern and remove the causes of human suffering.
- We seek the unity of our lives and our apostolate in the Passion of Jesus. His Passion reveals the power of God which penetrates the world, destroying the power of evil and building up the Kingdom of God.
- Since we have been called to unite ourselves to the life and mission of Him who - 'emptied himself taking on the form of a servant', we contemplate Christ through persevering prayer. By giving his life for us He reveals God's love for all people, and shows the path they must follow as they make their way towards the Father. Faithfulness to this contemplation enables us to show forth His love more fully, and to help others offer their lives in Christ to the Father.
- We express our participation in the Passion by a special vow, which is at once personal, communitarian, and apostolic. Though this vow we bind ourselves to keep alive the memory of the Passion of Christ. By words and deed we strive to foster awareness of its meaning and value for each person and for the life of the world.
- If the message of the Cross has not first penetrated our own lives, we ought not presume to proclaim it to others.
- ( Chapter 1, fundamentals of our Life. Rule and Constitutions of the Passionists)



Fr. Tiernan C.P.

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**We pray for those who have died recently – Herbert Trent, Margaret Murphy; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Beryl Macauley, Mary Feeley, Lala Siemicka, Fr. Declan O'Toole.**

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**

There are leaflets available at the back of the church with details of services over the next couple of weeks. We just give you here a brief summary of the main events ---

**Holy Thursday** – Mass of Lord's Supper at 8 pm, followed by Exposition at the Altar of Repose.

**Good Friday** 10.30 am. - Service for children.

12.00 noon - Stations of the Cross.

3.00 pm. – Liturgy of the Passion.

7.30 pm – The Seven Last Words.

**Holy Saturday** – no services during the day

9.00 pm Solemn Easter Vigil.

**Easter Sunday** – Masses at the usual times, including evening mass at 7.00 pm.

For many people it will not be possible to attend all these services. If at all possible we do encourage you to try to be present for the main liturgical celebration of the Sacred Triduum, which begins with the mass on Thursday evening; continues through the Liturgy of the Passion on Friday afternoon, and concludes with the Vigil Service on Saturday evening.

Being a Passionist Parish this is a very special time, and so we have a number of additional services for those who wish to enter even more fully into our reflection on the Paschal Mystery. On Friday morning we have a service geared towards the younger children, approx 10 and under, for whom the main services are not particularly suited. This lasts about half an hour. Then at midday there is a celebration of the Stations of the Cross, a traditional and still popular way of remembering all that the Lord has suffered for us. And at 7.30 in the evening we have a very traditional Passionist devotion – the Seven Last Words. This seems to be growing in popularity each year. It consists of seven short reflections on the last words spoken by Jesus on the cross, with a brief prayer and hymn in between – the entire service takes an hour. This year we have a very international group of speakers – a Scotsman, an Italian, a Canadian, an Irishman, and 3 Australians!

### **Reconciliation Service:**

As recent experiences in many parishes in our area has been that very few turn out for reconciliation services in their own parish, while there was quite a good turn-out at the joint celebration in St. John the Evangelist's in Islington before Christmas, it has been agreed to once again try the same procedure during Holy Week. So instead of having individual services in the various Parishes, there will be a joint one in St. Joan of Ark in Highbury, at 7.30 pm, on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 23rd March. There will be a number of priests from various parishes assisting in the service – so you can take your pick!

(PS. Thanks to all who attended our Deanery celebration of the **Feast of Joseph** here on Saturday. We had a sizeable congregation of people from here and good numbers from the other parishes in Islington Deanery!)

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,536. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. We really do appreciate your continuing generosity.

### **Planned Giving Boxes:**

We're almost into a new tax year, so time for new planned giving boxes. We invite you to collect your new boxes at the back of the church after any of the masses during the week-end. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please fill in the appropriate form and you will be assigned a box number.

### **Updates:**

To date on the works in the Church. The roof-work is almost completed –still one relatively small leak in the Lady Chapel, and as this is easily accessible we expect it to be sorted out shortly. With regard to the first stage of the painting, I'm expecting the tender papers to be ready soon for sending out to seek tenders. At present it doesn't seem too unrealistic to hope that the work will be done by late summer/early autumn.

With regard to Growing in Faith, people have remained very faithful to their pledges, and there is a steady flow into our account. To date just over £68,000 has been contributed, from the £207,506 pledged – which is well ahead of schedule, as we've just reached the quarter-way stage. (Remember also that both those figures are almost entirely gift-aided, thus increasing their values by almost 25%.) So thank you once again for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

### **Planning your children's Easter Break?:**

Premier Sport (Ofsted registered) will be running a holiday camp for 4 – 12 year olds at **St Joseph's Primary School, Highgate Hill, N19** during the Easter holiday's - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April until Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Half Day, £12.95 : 9.00am – 12.30pm, Regular Day, £19.95 : 9.00am – 3.30pm, Extended Day, £24.95 : 8.30am – 4.30pm. You can book individual days as required. Further information or to book on-line please visit [www.premiersport.org](http://www.premiersport.org) or for any other queries please call or email Alexandra Smart **m:07824139604 | t:02037403378 | e:asmart@premier-education.com**.