



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE  
Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@yahoo.com) Fr. Tiernan (tiernanp@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)

## 25th September 2016 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time A Colourful Week

I don't know if I have ever in my life spent as much time in a church during one week as I have this past week. Don't worry, it isn't that I have suddenly had a bout of religious mania – after all I am a firm believer that what the Lord wants are spiritual fruits, not religious nuts – but it had come to the time when decisions would need to be made in relation to the colours that were to be used in painting the church. I had always dreaded this time arriving, as I'm fully aware that I have no artistic talent whatever, and trying to imagine what a few colours, tested on some small patches, would look like when painted on vast expanses of wall, is away beyond my capabilities. Even going to the top of the scaffolding to see where the cornices and the walls met, and how much contrast between them was desirable, didn't help. To me everything looked yellow – until I realised that the high-visibility jacket I had to wear was being reflected on everything! Hence my desire to get as much advice as possible, both from the professionals who are experienced in this kind of matter, and from as many people as possible in the parish. And hence the amount of time spent in the church with different groups looking at coloured panels in different lighting conditions and discussing the merits, it seemed, of a million different combinations.

In the end the colour chosen for the main walls is, I believe, called Sandringham. The pillars will be painted Balmoral, the panels Windsor, and the cornices Buckingham. (Sorry, couldn't resist the temptation – that last sentence, of course, is a joke! But had you going, didn't it?) It is quite a light, and I'm told a warm colour. The columns will be slightly darker, so that they will stand out as a feature of the church. Colours for panels and cornices haven't been decided yet – until they can again be seen in the context of the main colour.

Having spent so much of the week on such mundane matters as choosing colours, I must admit I had a certain uneasy feeling when I got around to reading the Gospel for this Sunday. It's the story of the rich man and his attitude to the poor man at his gate. It didn't help when I saw that the first line of the story referred to the colour of the rich man's clothing! But as we have been spending so much money of recent times on the repair and decoration of the church – it will have amounted to more than half a million pounds by the time the church painting is finished – I have often asked myself if we can justify this kind of expenditure in a world where there is so much poverty. One can't get too simplistic on the subject, and suggest that every penny must be spent on the poor – even Jesus had to eat and clothe Himself – but it's more a question of proportion. And on that score I feel on more solid ground, as I remind you that 20% of the money raised during the Growing in Faith campaign is going to Caritas Westminster precisely to fund worthy projects. And in many other ways you have been exceptional in your support of the poor.

But today's Gospel is not particularly about wealth and poverty, but more about challenging us with regard to how well we listen to the teachings of the Lord, particularly in our attitudes to one another. We are not all equal in every way, but we do have obligations towards one another. The Lord is inviting us to go beyond obligations and make basic options for the needs of others, whatever those needs might be. And many of those needs are far more important than choosing colours, even for His church! His people are more important than His building!

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - Fiona Wilson; and for those who have died recently – Perry Clune (funeral 11.00am Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October), Michael Anthony Dannagher; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Gill Comyn, Susan Kerins, Antoniette Gerard-Coppel, Bridget Whiting, Michael Breslin, Peggy, Maggie & Charlie Bonner, James & Margaret O'Driscoll, Ruby Lobo, Emma Girolami.**

### **Final Dates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Forms: 2<sup>nd</sup> October!!!**

Our First Holy Communion Program will be starting on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. Forms are still available in the porch of the church. If you haven't already done so, please take one immediately, as they have to be returned, together with Baptism Certificates, by the following Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October. 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** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the candidates, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as 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.

### **Coffee Morning:**

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be taking place next Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, in the Red Room. Please make that extra effort to be present, as this is the first one since the holidays, and will be an opportunity to greet the many new members who have come to our parish over the past few months. So make a note in your diary for next Sunday, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10 mass, or before the 12 mass!

### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2017 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing [pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)

### **Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:**

The RCIA course – which is principally intended – but not exclusively - for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfcp44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com). 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. Each session is a complete unit, so you don't have to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

### **Response to Recent Requests for Volunteers:**

A most sincere thank-you to the many people who have responded to our request for volunteers to help with the First Communion program – it has been the most generous response in my memory. Some of you have been contacted already, and the rest will be during this coming week.

### **Ad for Parish Pastoral Worker/Catechist:**

The modern Parish is expected to have a wide range of ministries serving its members. On a Sunday morning alone we are talking about Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Choir, Collectors, as well as leaders for the Junior Liturgy, Catechists and Assistants for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Confirmation programs. In addition we have the RCIA, Preparation for Marriage, Baptism preparation, visitation of the housebound, Parish Safety Officer, Parish Council and Parish Finance Committee. All these, and other potential initiatives require training and organisation, and many Parishes nowadays – and St. Joseph's in the past – employ a Pastoral Assistant to help with many of these areas. At present we are advertising through the Diocese for such a person. If you feel you might be interested in this part-time paid position, full details can be found at - <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/catechetical-co-ordinator-st-josephs-parish-highgate/>

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,631. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Albans:**

The Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral takes place on Saturday 8 October 2016 led by Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. The pilgrimage begins in Verulamium Park at 2.30pm, with an enactment of the story of St Alban, a procession into the cathedral, past the shrine of St Alban, and ecumenical Evensong at 4.00pm in the cathedral. There will be an opportunity to venerate the relic of St Alban after Evensong.

### **Lift to Mass:**

Lady in Junction Road would like a lift to 12.00 o'clock Mass on Sundays. Please contact Eileen 020 7272 1263 if you can help.