



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)

22nd January 2017 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time There's a Hole in the

I usually like to do the crossword while I'm having my breakfast in the morning. I find it helps to get the mind into gear as it were, and as there is generally nobody else around at the time it saves me having to talk to myself (I do enough of that in the pulpit on a Sunday morning?). But this morning I hadn't got a clue, literally. Because I hadn't got a crossword - the papers hadn't been delivered! So I went to the letter box at the front door to check if they had come late, but still no papers and no crossword. But I tend to be an optimist, maybe they were just on their way down the hill from the village. So I look out the door. No papers anywhere is sight. But instead I'm greeted with an all too familiar scene - a squad of men digging up the road! Is there a special office in the Borough – "department for digging holes outside St. Joseph's Church"? It's probably the busiest department there – with predictable results – daylong traffic jams and honking horns.

I was walking up the hill later in the day – obviously faster than the traffic! – thinking to myself, just as everybody else was thinking, that surely if it was my job I could manage traffic flow better than that, and the mess that is now Archway, and the horror show that has been Holloway Road, to only mention the most recent examples of how to raise the blood-pressure of motorists. I always smile to myself when I see signs indicating that "traffic calming" measures are ahead – traffic-calming maybe, but driver-frustrating usually. And then I think – I'm probably being a bit harsh. There are probably a host of ordinary sons and daughters of ordinary mothers and fathers pulling their hair out somewhere trying to weave a path through the myriads of regulations required to be satisfied in order to dig a hole in the road; trying to balance the requirements of commuters with the requirements of updated infrastructure; trying to keep unions and bosses happy with unusual working hours and unhealthy working conditions.

There's no concrete evidence to say that Jesus ever pulled his hair out – in fact most depictions of him show him to have been particularly gifted in the follicle department. But surely picking his team to train in his ministry and to take over after him - as we see him beginning to do in today's gospel - must have cost him a few head-aches. Many would say he didn't make a particularly good job of it! Just think of some of them. There was Philip, rather a cynic, "what good are a few loaves and a couple of fish?" There were the brothers James and John, apparently primarily and sneakily interested in getting the best jobs. The traitor Judas. Peter, all bravado one minute, couldn't see his heels for dust the next. And Thomas, the one who wouldn't be convinced of anything less plain than the nose on his face.

But, as with the traffic management, I suspect all that is a little harsh, and in reality very short-sighted. It's a good job Jesus called those kinds of people to follow him – because otherwise where would we fit into the picture? I suspect many of us would have to own up to having times of grave doubts. Which of us do not want to better ourselves? (Apart from me, that is. Not interested in being Pope, or even Bishop, and if you're going to be a parish priest, does it get better than Highgate??) I suspect there is a fair bit of Peter in most of us – very confident of our faith as long as it's not going to make life too difficult for us.

Thank God Jesus called the less than perfect, us, and invited us to join him, as it were, on the highway to heaven. If we're stuck in a jam, it's probably of our own making!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Elizabeth Cooney (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 24th January), Robert Taylor (funeral 10.30am Thursday 26th January), Richard Lewis, Mary Eyre, Jenifer Kean, Patrick Mulkerins, Anna Murphy; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Sr. Helen McChesney OSA, Patricia O'Keefe, Dudley Fox, Clare Fruin, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Jack Brown, Tom Hennesey, Josephine Bromfield.

Pre Marriage Course:

Our next Marriage preparation course will be taking place on Saturday, 11th February. Those who wish to participate should contact Fr. Pat, at pat@stjosephshighgate.org.uk. For those wishing to get married in the Catholic Church nowadays it is a requirement that they do a pre-marriage course – though not necessarily in their own parish. We appreciate that expressing it this way – “a requirement” – can make it sound like a burden, but it genuinely isn’t so. It is focussed on thinking past the wedding day and its preparations, and helping couples to appreciate that they still have a lot to learn, about themselves as well as their partners. Our course here is conducted by a counsellor, a married couple and a priest – so many different perspectives on married life are presented.

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

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 3rd June, 2017 at 3pm. 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.

Do You Feel a Call to Serve God?:

On Saturday 28th January at the Servite Church (opposite the Chelsea Westminster Hospital) Canon Stuart and the Vocations Team will be talking about that call to service. If you have ever felt attracted to serving God either as a religious brother or sister or as a deacon or priest then why not come along. The Mass is at 6.30pm and will be followed by a short meeting. You would be welcome. Further details contact: Contact Phone: 0207 349 5620 Mobile: 07515 065 696 Email: vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk

Christian Stewardship:

Last week’s collection amounted to £1,686. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. We thank you for your continuing generosity.

St. Gabriel’s Cold Weather Shelter:

St. Gabriel’s in Holloway Road is looking for volunteers to help with the provision of services and friendship to the homeless for whom we shall be providing shelter, dinner and breakfast every Tuesday of this winter beginning the 3rd of January. Potential volunteers should please contact KC on 07973 416603. Thanks and God bless.

Beginning Experience:

There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner from 17th to 19th March 2017 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443 email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

SVP Shop Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the SVP charity shop at 484 Kingsland Road, Dalston, Hackney. Work will include sorting donations, pricing, steaming, operating the till and customer service. Full training will be given.

You will be part of a happy, friendly team doing very rewarding community work. Please pop in for a chat or call Louise on 020 7249 3511.

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

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have 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 – the Whittington being one of them - 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.

SVP Vinnie Packs:

The St Vincent de Paul Society is distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs to the homeless over the winter, mostly in the Westminster diocese. See svp.org.uk/node/330 for more information. They cost about £3.20 to produce. Any contribution will be very welcome. Donations can be made by text VIMP33£[AMOUNT] to 70070 or by cheque made out to SVP and sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ.