



# 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)

## 2nd April 2017 – 5th Sunday of Lent A Matter of Life and Death

*“St. Joseph’s is a busy parish community in Highgate, North London with a warm and lively atmosphere.”* In case you don’t recognise that opening line, it is the opening line on the home page of our internet site. And it’s normally a fairly accurate, even if brief, description of our special parish here. But not for the next two weeks. I’m afraid the place will be practically dead! Why? Because, as you may or may not be aware, the schools in the locality have closed for the Easter holidays. I don’t know about you, but there is something unreal about that for me – Easter is miles away! Or so I thought, until I realised that actually next Sunday is Palm Sunday, followed quickly by Holy Week, and then Easter Sunday. I’m tempted to say “where has the time gone?” but I said that to somebody recently and they - rather unkindly, I thought – told me that that is one of the effects of old age! Like I needed reminding?

Sorry, where was I? Oh yes – over the next couple of weeks, with so many of the children away, the place is going to feel rather dead. Which, while I think of it, is not the case with Fr. Christopher! Far from it. This Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, he is celebrating his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. I know, I’m writing this on April the first, but I’m not April-fooling! It seems such a short while ago since he had his last birthday that I’m beginning to wonder if he’s a bit like the queen – does he have multiple birthdays per year? We are expecting him to be with us for the 12 o’clock mass, and afterwards dinner with the community – followed, I’m told, by a ‘hooley’ down in the Club.

Sorry, where was I? Oh yes – I was talking about the place feeling a bit dead over the next couple of weeks. But at least, at time of writing – got to be careful, one never knows! – I am still alive. Which just as a joke I had to remind a very good friend of mine recently. We keep very regular contact, but for one reason or another hadn’t managed to be in touch for longer than usual. So when I got a text message asking if everything was OK, just as a light-hearted answer I replied that I was still alive. Which was more than Jesus’s friends, Martha and Mary could say about their brother Lazarus when He arrived to visit them.

The story as told by John in today’s gospel is rather strange. At first the attitude of Jesus seems to be very off-hand – like he had little concern for the feelings of Martha and Mary. He had deliberately delayed when he got word of Lazarus’s terminal illness, with the result that by the time he got there Lazarus was already in the tomb for four days. But there’s a powerful feeling going through the whole incident that Jesus is totally in control of the situation, just as very shortly he is going to be in charge of the situation when his own death takes place. His life would not be taken from him – he was about to give it up for us. He quickly shows that he was not being off-hand, but was very conscious of the grief of the sisters, and was not ashamed to shed tears with them. But, as with so much of what Jesus did, he acted the way he did because there was a deeper message he wanted to share with all of us – the life he is offering us is eternal, and won’t be destroyed by bodily death. His gift to us is to share with us his glorious, Easter, resurrected life.

We don’t know what the first words of Lazarus were when he was brought back to life. I wonder if they might have been “Sorry, where was I?”

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**We pray for the sick of the Parish** - Fr. Charles Owen CP; **we pray for those who have died recently** – William Crawford, Stephen Henry, Mary Bernadette Phelan; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Clifford Lewis, Margaret Murphy, Cyril & Ellen Emery.

### **Fr. Charles:**

Thanks to the very many of you who have expressed your concern about the present illness of Fr. Charles, and your prayers are very much appreciated. Thanks too to the many who have taken the trouble to visit him in the Hospice. Unfortunately we have to say at this point that he is continuing to get weaker, and he and the Hospice have asked that you no longer attempt to contact him directly, but instead make any enquiries through his Superior, Fr. Mark, in Herne Bay. The phone number for the Herne Bay community is 01227375095.

### **Coffee Morning:**

There will be a Parish Coffee Morning today, Sunday, 2nd April, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00am. Mass. A good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish.

### **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/>

### **Parish Stewardship Drive:**

A most sincere thank you to you all who participated in our Parish Stewardship Drive over the past number of weeks. It is too early yet to realistically assess its effectiveness, but the early indications are very positive. As soon as we can after Easter we will bring you up-to-date information.

### **Stations of the Cross:**

During the season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross immediately after the 6.30 pm. Mass each Friday. Of course, if the set time is not suitable for you, you can also do this particular form of prayer at any time on your own or with some friends.

### **Lenten Projects:**

Thanks to all of you who have been so generous in your support of our Lenten Projects this year. Remember, the two charities we are supporting are (1) the Passionist priests who are working with the disaster-stricken people, and especially children, of Haiti, and (2) the Cardinal Hume Centre here in London which provides emergency and longer-term help to those struggling to survive in our capital.

### **Church Cleaning Fest:**

Even if you haven't put down "church cleaning" as one of the areas that you would like to volunteer for in our recent stewardship drive, don't let that inhibit you from being part of our church cleaning fest this Friday, 7th April, from 2 to 5 pm. If you are free for any part of that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way (and would like to partake of the wonderful refreshments provided), please sign up on the volunteering list that is in the porch or email [roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com](mailto:roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com)

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,428. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

### **Planned Giving Boxes:**

We will shortly be into a new tax year, when the planned-giving boxes for 2017-2018 come into operation. We invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes at the back of the church after any of the masses over the next few week-ends. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please let the people distributing the boxes know, and they will assign you a box number.

### **Meditation Group:**

The Christian Meditation Group will not meet over the Easter period. The last meeting will be on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April and the group will resume on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **100 Club Results:**

The March Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 112 and the winners were: £400 Margaret McCormack (70), £100 Lorraine McAndrew (6), £50 Tony Gaughan (66). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request.

### **Dance for Cancer:**

Supporting the Marie Curie Hospice Hampstead Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 8.30pm at St. Josephs Parish Centre. Music by Tony Kearney Band, variety of Dances, Waltzes, Quick Steps, Céilí and Sets. Only £5, Please Support, Tickets from Antón or Mary Coyle on 7272 5815