



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)

1st May 2016 – 6th Sunday of Easter ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

Maybe it's just my bad memory, but I have no recollection of the word 'highlights' being used in my youth. There was no need for them – we had all the time in the world for the full show. The concept basically seems to come from the fact that nowadays we don't have either the time or the inclination to see/hear/read the full thing, so just give us the highlights. And that's understandable enough in a world where so much is available – nobody couldn't realistically watch, say, all 900 minutes of premiership football on a week-end, not to mention all the other divisions, not to mention all the other sports. So we end up for the most part watching the 'highlights'. And often the effect of that is that a game that in reality was as boring as watching grass grow can appear very exciting. Of course the film industry learned that lesson long before, when they started producing 'trailers' – some selected scenes that gave the impression that the film advertised was not to be missed, when in reality very often the scenes in the two-minute trailer were the only ones worth watching from the 100 minute film.

But nowadays we do very much depend on summaries, 'snapshots' and highlights. Newspapers, TV and Radio news are probably very good examples – we just get some brief extracts from possibly a long speech, or a complicated piece of legislation or whatever. And for most of us most of the time that's probably enough. But for lawyers, for instance, whose work might be greatly involved with the new piece of legislation, I would hope they would get their knowledge of the legislation from a less superficial source. And of course we know how easily bias, for or against, can come into the selecting of items of news.

You may be asking where's all this going? In brief, I want to draw your attention to the latest document from Pope Francis – "The Joy of Love". At all our masses this week-end we will be reading a letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols giving some 'highlights' from the document and encouraging us to read the original for ourselves. I just want to very strongly join my voice with his. I know sometimes people can feel that documents from the Vatican are not really for the ordinary person to read. (But we're not 'ordinary' people – we are Christians, for whom love should be our specialist subject!) Even if that were ever true in the past it's certainly not the case with the present Pope. Yes, there are bits that are a trifle more 'scholarly' (as in 'directed to scholars') but most is in very down-to-earth language dealing with down-to-earth issues, particularly centring on family life. The section where he reflects on the meaning and application of St. Paul's hymn to love ("Love is patient, kind ...") is probably worth reading every day as an inspiration for what love means in practical terms in our daily lives.

For those of you who are into the internet the document, named in Latin "Amoris Laetitia", is readily available for free from many sites, and can be downloaded to your tablet and read during your public transport commute! It's also available in printed form – published by C.T.S. Why not give it a try? When last did you read a full document written by the Pope? There's probably never been a better time than now to give it a go. (Practical hint: skip over the bits that don't immediately grab your attention – you can go back to them later – you will find lots to really enlighten you on how the church has come to terms with the modern world, and I suspect answers to a lot of your questions about "what is the teaching of the church about....?")

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We pray for those who have died recently – Carmel Anne Temple (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 10th May), John Connolly, Annie Clark; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Frank Hughes, Florence Tharby, Billy Ryan, George O'Shea, Emma Fiona May.

Welcome to Bishop Hudson:

We are very happy and honoured this week-end to welcome Bishop Nicholas Hudson to St. Joseph's Parish for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with 24 of our young people, which is taking place at the 7.00 pm. mass on Saturday. We trust that his stay amongst us, though short, will be a pleasant one.

Confirmations:

As mentioned above, 24 of our young people will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation this week-end. Those of us who are a little more senior might be tempted to think that this is simply another event in the cycle of parish life, but we should be aware that things have changed very much from 'our day'. Nowadays our young people must make a personal choice to seek to be confirmed. They go through a lengthy process of preparation that takes place outside of their formal education, sacrificing their free time. To make those sorts of choices is not easy nowadays. So I really want to first of all congratulate them on their special day, but also to thank them for coming forward and openly professing their faith, and choosing to be key members of the next generation entrusted to hand down Christ's message of love, and peace, and hope for the future. May this Sacrament strengthen and encourage them in the living out of their Christian idealism.

Coffee Morning:

The next of our monthly Coffee Mornings will be taking place next Sunday, May 8th, immediately after the 10 o'clock Mass. Please come along and take the time to meet with your fellow-parishioners. **Christian**

Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,585. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month.

100 Club Results:

The April Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 117 and the winners were: £400 Salome Golding (76), £100 D. A. Hurndall (98), £50 F. J. Blackwell (113). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The May draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 22nd May. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Islington Year of Mercy Mass in St. Gabriel's:

As part of Islington Deanery's observance of the Year of Mercy, a special Mass for the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated at St. Gabriel's Church, Holloway Road, on Friday 6th May at 12.00. Mass will be followed by Adoration and anointing of the sick 12.30-1.30pm. The mass is open to all, but **the sick and housebound** of the parish are particularly invited to be there, and if there is any way we can help with getting them there, then please let us know. Contact Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com; or phone 07807 013752.

Organ Recital:

The next in our 2016 season of organ recitals will be on Thursday 12th May, to be given by Alessandro Urbano of Eglise St. Martin de Dudelange, Luxembourg. Admission is free, but all donations will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch noticeboard.

Planned Giving Boxes:

Still some to be collected!

Door & Phone Cover:

Due to various changes in circumstances we are once again looking for volunteers to help with answering the door and taking phone calls during the week. We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also there are gaps in the rota for Thursday afternoon (12.00-3.00pm) and Friday afternoon (3.00pm onwards). If you could spare a couple of hours a week on a regular basis and would like to help, please contact Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed:

The popular **Highgate Fair in the Square** will take place on Saturday, June 11th from 12:30 to 5:30 pm. They need around 100 volunteers to help out on the day. If you are able to help, even if it is for an hour or two, please can you phone or email Betty Pires. Email: bettypires1503@gmail.com or tel: 07785925780.

Volunteer at SPEC:

SPEC is part of Westminster Youth Ministry. Each year a number of young adults (aged 18-25) join the resident community for a year as volunteer missionaries. They help the community in its primary mission of retreat ministry for children and young people in the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Westminster. Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity for you - or someone you know - to combine a year of service with a year of formation in faith in a supportive Catholic community. More details are available at: <http://dowym.com/spec/>; e-mail: spec@rcdow.org.uk, Phone: 020 3757 2500.

WE PRAY FOR . . .

(1st May)

the sick and housebound of our Parish:

Karen Hodges,

John & Nancy Lennon,

Bridget Mc Donnell,

Bernadette McCourt,

Alice Ryan,

Isabel Pycroft,

Vincent Howard,

Angela Barber,

Agnes Murphy,

Ita Watters,

Cathy O'Brien,

William Pender,

Florence Cass,

May Miranda,

Julian Rea,

Anne Bergin.

We remember those who have died recently:

Carmel Anne Temple,

John Connolly,

Annie Clark.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Frank Hughes,

Florence Tharby,

Billy Ryan,

George O'Shea,

Emma Fiona May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1st May)

Monday this week is a bank holiday, there will be only one Mass, at 9.30 in the morning.