



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)

12th March 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Lent Seeing Things Differently

Even though our stewardship drive is continuing over a period of three weeks, I didn't feel it was right to be boring you by giving it prominence each of those weeks in our main article – even though there's lots that could be said about the need for far more volunteer involvement in the parish. But having decided to leave that aside this week, it left me with the question, so what will I write about? Looking out the window I could see that it was a glorious day outside, so another of those walks in the park became a tempting prospect. But beyond drawing your attention to the magnificent display of crocuses in the main field, I didn't reckon I was likely to find much inspiration there again. Then I remembered that when Fr. Pat the Elder was here a few weeks back he told me that one day he had taken a walk from Camden lock, along the canal and through Regent's Park, and that it was a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon. And I thinks to myself, that might be a very good way to kill not only two, but three birds with one stone – enjoy a bit of fresh air on a beautiful sunny afternoon, get my required 6000 steps done for the day, and maybe even get some inspiration for the bulletin.

So off I head to Camden. As I got out of the station I began to wonder whether this was a wise move. Everyone between the age of 20 and 30 on the planet seemed to be jammed onto the streets there. Fortunately I knew my way to Camden lock, because if I didn't I reckoned there was no-one I was going to be able to ask, being as it was that I seemed to be only English-speaking person about. I gradually edged my way along the street, resisting the persistent signs inviting me to have my ears pierced or my any-where-you-like tattooed, until I eventually made it to the canal. I amused myself with the thought of the look on the faces of the congregation at mass if I turned up with a few rings hanging out my ears and the backs of my hands covered in tattoos as I gave out communion!

Fortunately the numbers lessened as I at last reached the path along the canal, and there were even people who were more than half my age – so I didn't feel such an alien. And I have to say it was worth all the struggle to get that far. I had a very pleasant stroll along the canal, surprised to find out that I was living for the last 8 and a half year so near a zoo without realising it, and eventually crossing over into Regent's Park and completing the circuit back to Camden Station. I could even be back in Highgate in time to see the rugby. Unfortunately, after yesterday, my interest in rugby has somewhat waned (temporarily)!

But I didn't let that thought spoil my day. I had seen a side of London that I hadn't experienced before – from the seething mass of young people out to enjoy themselves in a peaceful manner, to the people enjoying their picnics along the banks of the canal, to the families enjoying the excitement of the zoo, to the crowds of all ages enjoying the freedom of the park. All the kinds of things that help us to feel good about life. But still just a pale shadow of the experience that the apostles Peter, James and John have in our gospel today, when they experience an entirely different side of Jesus what we call His transfiguration. The miracle-worker, the inspiring preacher, is now seen as being on a par as it were with the key figures of the Old Testament – Moses and Elijah. And He has the backing of God Himself. No wonder they wanted to stay there. But Jesus leads them gently back down to their everyday world. They, we, can be inspired and refreshed by the experiences, but we have to live in our real everyday world. After all, there are bulletins to be written!

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We pray for the sick of the Parish - Fr. Charles Owen CP; for those who have died recently – Sally Heggarty (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 14th March), Joao Teles, Sr. Carmel Doran CP; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – David Nolan, Ann Galvin, Alice Foye, Margaret Heavey, Frank Heavey, Jack Grace.

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. This is a particularly appropriate form of prayer during Lent, especially in a Passionist church, as it encourages meditation on the profound mystery on the depth of the Lord's love for us as expressed in His passion, death and resurrection. 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 Project:

During previous Lents you have been very generous in your support of our two Lenten projects. There is hardly any need to remind you that conditions in Haiti – where two of our Passionist priests work are still horrific. They were still trying to deal with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2010, when Hurricane Matthew struck last year causing even more death and destruction. And all this in what is one of the poorest countries in the world. For regular updates on the kind of help your money is providing in Haiti please visit - <http://www.stlukehaiti.org/blog/> .

The other charity your Lenten project donations help is the Cardinal Hume Centre. This charity is particularly worthy in that they not only provide emergency help to those in need, but concentrate much of their resources in finding long-term solutions for their clients through education and training. For more detailed information on their wonderful work please visit their site - <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/>

As usual, for the six Sundays of Lent we will be having an exit collection after all Masses, the proceeds of which will be divided between Haiti and the Cardinal Hume Centre. In addition, there are two wall-boxes located at either side at the back of the church which are dedicated to the same causes.

Church Cleaning Fest:

The headline you've been eagerly waiting to see! Wait no more – our next big church clean-up, in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, will be on 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 will be in the porch or email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,676. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

Dance for Cancer:

Supporting the Marie Curie Hospice Hampstead Friday 7th 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

Churches Together United Worship:

Churches Together in Highgate invite you to Evening Prayer here at St Joseph's this Sunday 12th March at 5.00pm. We welcome Revd. Howard Rogers from St. Michaels as preacher. There will be light refreshments and time for fellowship after the service.

Are you ready to Volunteer and make a difference in Lourdes?

Every year, the Diocese of Westminster takes a large number of sick pilgrims to Lourdes and rely very much on the help of volunteers. If you are between 16 and 18, you can serve as a 'Red Cap', helping people in wheelchairs and taking part in the processions etc. more details can be obtained from Katrina Lavery at katrina.lavery@clowershipping.com. If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Some of our sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai. They are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteers. The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends. Although plenty of people come back year after year, at least half the people in your team will, like you, be working in the St Frai for the first time, and because of this we organise training for all helpers beforehand to ensure that you are happy in everything you do. Helping in Lourdes is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. If you're interested in helping in the St Frai, please email Nick Leonard at westminsterstfrai@gmail.com Serving on a pilgrimage is a hugely rewarding experience and an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we care for.

Come and See - becoming a Permanent Deacon:

Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting at St Edward the Confessor, 700 Finchley Rd, Golders Green, NW11 7NE on Saturday 25th March from 10am to 12. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.