

# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

[www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk](http://www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

## P A R I S H B U L L E T I N

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Registered Charity  
1173084

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# This is our Faith!

Fr. George Koloth CP

I love the story of Jesus' baptism. It is one of those stories that is familiar and leaves me feeling warm and cozy. In the story we are reminded that Jesus is God's beloved son and most of us have been encouraged to imagine that God also says these words to us. Whenever I find myself in a lesson on Jesus' baptism, I can always count on the question being brought up about why Jesus had to be baptized in the first place. This question almost always arises out of the understanding that someone is baptized to indicate they have accepted Jesus as their saviour and so the baptism indicates a person's commitment to following Jesus. Baptism was about obedience. And when Jesus was baptized, he showed that he was obedient to God. However, when Jesus comes out of the water, the Father doesn't say, "You did what I told you to do; with you I am well pleased." Rather the He said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



I think baptism is less about obedience and more about identity. When we are baptized, be it as infants or as teenagers, or as adults – when we are baptized, we are declaring (or our parents are declaring) that we are a child of God and that is how we see ourselves. When we begin to see ourselves as God sees us, when we are able to understand that we are beloved of God, our whole view of ourselves is transformed.

If I were teaching this lesson, I would aim for one or two things. First, I would encourage everyone to, either out loud or on paper, answer the question, "How does

God see you?" or "Who are you to God?" The second thing I would consider doing is having some kind of ritual to encourage everyone to remember their baptism. This could involve a bowl of water in which people prayed while placing their hands in it and maybe lighting a candle afterwards. And so, whether you have walked through the waters of baptism or not, I wonder if you are able to see yourself the way God sees you. Can you imagine what God would say to you today about yourself? How are you transformed when you truly begin to understand your identity as a beloved child of God?

Baptism means many things to many people, but today we've seen that Jesus' baptism was also an act of identity. What do we learn about Jesus' identity from this moment?

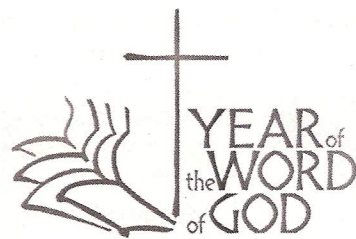
What does baptism really mean to us and why?

Why is our identity before God more important than any expectations that others might place on us?

In what ways might we find ways to remind ourselves, individually or as a community, of our true identity before God?

## 2020 - YEAR OF THE WORD OF GOD COME AND STAY WITH THE SCRIPTURES

We want to read and interpret the Bible for many different reasons: not only for historical information, moral guidance or spiritual wisdom but also to encounter each other and God and for the sheer pleasure of it. We want to read and interpret the bible for many different contexts: not only of Christian church but also in the context of political questions and contemporary culture. We want to read and interpret the bible from many different angles: not only liberal and conservative but also secular and interfaith.

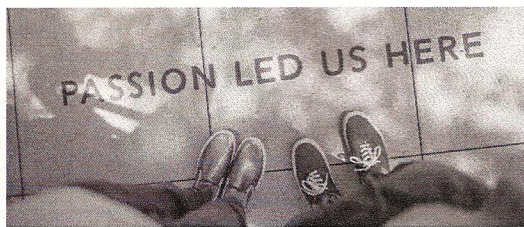


**In this Year of the Word of God  
GET ENROLLED in our  
'BIBLE PRAYER GROUP';  
on the last Friday of  
every month at 7PM**

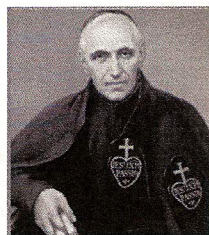


# ST. CHARLES OF MOUNT ARGUS

Fr. Tiernan Doherty, CP



He was born Joannes Andreas Houben on the 11th of December 1821 in the province of Limburg in the Netherlands. Known as Andrew and one of 11 children in a poor family, he was a slow learner in his youth, quiet and extremely shy. When 19 years old he enrolled for the military service in the First Infantry Regiment of the Netherlands. It is said that there was an occasion as a soldier he had to deal with a disturbance in a town. The army were called out and ordered to fire. Afraid that he might hit someone, Andrew pointed his rifle the wrong way and narrowly missed shooting his superior officer! When his time in the reserve army finished in 1845 he felt called to the religious life and joined the Passionists, recently arrived in Belgium in the village of Ere. When receiving the habit he took the religious name of Charles of St Andrew. His father died the year before his ordination and being so poor his family could not afford to attend his ordination because of the expenses of the funeral.



In 1852 he was sent to serve in England where he did parochial ministry. It was there that he first made contact with the Irish who were moving to England in gathering wake of the devastating famine taking place there. In 1857 Charles was transferred to the newly founded monastery of Mount Argus, in Harold's Cross Dublin. Charles was not a good preacher and could not conduct the missions and retreats as other Passionists did. He never really mastered the English language, but it was in the confessional and in comforting the sick that he excelled, and he became very fond of the Irish people. In community he was cheerful and often was heard humming the Dutch national anthem as he walked around the house.

Charles gained a reputation for his compassion and healing of the sick and those in need of guidance. His reputation for healings and miracles was so great at the time that a reference is named to him in the famous novel Ulysses by James Joyce. Fr. Sebastian Keens, CP a member of the community told of a boy who had lost the use of his leg and was brought to him. Without delay he called Charles and shortly afterwards found the boy walking up and down in front of the house completely cured. But his popularity made the authorities suspicious of him. Some medical doctors made a complaint to the Archbishop that Charles discouraged people from going to the doctor, a claim later retracted. Because of the attention, Charles was transferred back to England in 1866 and remained there for eight years. When he eventually returned to Dublin in 1874 the vehicle he was travelling was overturned not far from the monastery causing a him a fracture which was never set right. He remained in our monastery at Mount Argus until his death that took place at dawn on January 5, 1893. This year his feast fell on the feast of the Epiphany. Let us pray to this wonderful saint when caring for the sick of our families and parishes.

*Thank  
you!*

**Christian Stewardship:** Last week's collection amounted to £1,395. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks for your continuing generosity in support of your Parish.

## MASSES

**Sunday** (7pm Saturday) 8am, 10am,  
12noon, 1.30 (Polish), 7pm.  
**Holidays** 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)



PRAY

We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish  
**Julie Loh**

We pray for those who have died recently.

**Daniel Kane**  
(funeral 12.00 noon Thursday  
16th January)

**Patricia Clare Chamberlain** (funeral 11.00am Wednesday  
22nd January)

**Joyce Oparah**  
(funeral 12.00 noon Friday  
7th February)

**Bridie Carolan**

REMEMBER

we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time  
**Br. Matthew Grace CP**  
**Tom Hurndall**  
**John Collins**  
**Eileen Hughes**  
**Anne Cross**  
**Dorothy Breen**  
**George O'Shea**  
**J.P. Cavaghan**  
**Patrick Wallace**  
**Noel O'Donoghue**  
**Mary de Silva**  
**Christina Nash**

## "Come and See"

DEVOTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Rosary Devotion

Every day after 9.30AM Mass.  
And every Tuesday after 6.30pm Mass.

### Perpetual Novena in Honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

Every Tuesday after 6.30PM Mass

### Mindfulness and Meditation

Every Friday After 6.30PM Mass.

### Charismatic Prayer and Worship

Every Tuesday after 6.30PM Mass.

### Vincent De Paul Meet

Every first and third Friday  
after 6.30PM Mass.

### AA Groups

Two sessions at 4.00PM and 6.30PM  
every Sunday