



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

Tel. 020 7272 2320 Fax. 020 7281 9433

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com : website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

13th March 2016 – 5th Sunday of Lent The Silence of Joseph

Next Saturday we celebrate our patronal feast as a parish and Passionist monastery. As a school boy in Melbourne I loved this week because we got two holidays from school a couple of days apart: one for St. Patrick who was patron of the Archdiocese and the other for St. Joseph who was patron of our college. The feasts days were a nice break from Lent as well! I have always admired St. Patrick as a good model to appreciate part of what Lent is about - reconciliation. We know that when he was sixteen he was carried as a captive into Ireland and obliged to serve a heathen master as a herdsman. His faith helped him survive the harshness of life until a miraculous escape and return home. Rather than be embittered by the experience, Patrick, after a special dream, actually decided to return to the people who enslaved him to bring them Christ.

While we would like to know a lot more about St Patrick's life, there is even less to know about the Life of St. Joseph. We have our scripture stories of course, but we have to use our imagination to fill in the rest. One new area of knowledge we have from historical research leads us to conclude Jesus probably assisted Joseph working at a huge construction site in his times in the new town of Sepphoris, some four miles from Nazareth. We can assume Mary probably packed them lunch and Jesus learned how to become a carpenter and a man by being beside Joseph.

Now with Mary, the last time she speaks in the scriptures is at Cana, when she says these words to the attendants - 'do whatever he says'. This is a delightful phrase to contemplate on - we are always to listen to the Master! However, when it comes to Joseph, no words are spoken, only 'silence'. But this silence brings its own message. With Joseph the emphasis on silence leads us to appreciate more deeply the value of 'presence'. Joseph is there for Mary and Jesus, especially when things get dangerous like in the flight into Egypt. When the Inn was closed to pregnant Mary he found a Stable. It is because of this care he displays, that rightfully Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church. Our holy founder, St Paul of the Cross also made Joseph our patron to protect our young order from the envy and attacks of some friar orders in the early days of our foundation,

We do well in these difficult times to turn to Joseph, since he was a refugee to Egypt himself with Mary and Jesus. May we invoke his presence and prayer when we turn our attention to the plight of refugees around the world. As patron of the people of God, let us especially commend to his care those suffering persecution. Christians are the most persecuted group in the world at present.

May our many new martyrs take their silence into the silence of Joseph. Their silent presence now speaks of courage, faith and profound love in the face of violent adversity. Let us remember the four Missionaries of Charity martyred on the 5th of March in Yemen. Their names are Srs. Anselm, Reginette, Marguerite and Judith. Two are Rwandan and one sister from India and the other from Kenya. A Salesian priest from the Aged care centre they served was kidnapped. The sisters have been in North Yemen since 1985. There are still 16 left there. Let us also pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Nigeria. In the past year there has been an increase of sixty two per cent killing of Christians. Last year there were 4,028 Christians killed and 198 attacks on churches. The secular press is silent about these statistics, but we the Church grow stronger by remembering them. - SALVE IOSEPH -

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We pray for those who have died recently – Herbert Trent (12 noon Monday 14th March), John Murphy, Diana Ageba, Ron Pintus, Emmanuel Xuereb, Daniel Camilleri; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Jack Grace, Mary Hartigan, Joseph Moloney, Sarah Quirke.

Feast of St. Joseph & Year of Mercy:

As part of Islington Deanery's observance of the Year of Mercy, a special Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be concelebrated here at St. Joseph's on Saturday 19th March at 12.30pm. People and priests from around the Deanery will be attending, and it would be nice to see a good representation from our own Parish.

First Reconciliations:

Also next Saturday, Feast of St. Joseph, the children in our 1st Communion program will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The celebration will be at 10.45am. Consequently the usual hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be reduced to 30 minutes – ending at 10.30am.

Reconciliation Service:

As recent experiences in many parishes in our area has been that very few turn out for reconciliation services in their own parish, while there was quite a good turn-out at the joint celebration in St. John the Evangelist's in Islington before Christmas, it has been agreed to once again try the same procedure during Holy Week. So instead of having individual services in the various Parishes, there will be a joint one in St. Joan of Ark in Highbury, at 7.30 pm, on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 23rd March. There will be a number of priests from various parishes assisting in the service – so you can take your pick!

Updates:

Just to keep you up to date on the works in the Church. The work on the roofs is almost completed – there is still one relatively small leak in the Lady Chapel, and as this is easily accessible we expect it to be sorted out shortly. With regard to the first stage of the painting, I'm expecting the tender papers to be ready very shortly for sending out to seek tenders. At present it doesn't seem too unrealistic to hope that the work will be done by late summer/early autumn.

With regard to Growing in Faith, people have remained very faithful to their pledges, and there is a steady flow into our account. To date just over £68,000 has been contributed, from the £207,506 pledged – which is well ahead of schedule, as we've just reached the quarter-way stage. (Remember also that both those figures are almost entirely gift-aided, thus increasing their values by almost 25%.) So thank you once again for your continuing generosity in supporting your Parish.

Spring Cleaning:

Our next church cleaning session will be on Friday 18th March, from 2.00-4.00pm. If you are free at that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way, please sign up on the volunteering list in the porch or contact Roxane on 020 7263 6831, or email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,653. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. We really do appreciate your continuing generosity.

Churches Together United Worship:

As you may be aware, a regular series of worship events has been taking place in the various churches in the Highgate area. The next event will be in St. Augustine's, on the Archway Road. Fr. Tiernan will be preaching at this ecumenical evening of shared prayer this Sunday, 13th March, at 6.00pm.

Planned Giving Boxes:

We're almost into a new tax year, so time for new planned giving boxes. We invite you to collect your new boxes at the back of the church after any of the masses during the week-end. If you haven't had a box before but would like to start now, then please fill in the appropriate form and you will be assigned a box number.

Donating by text:

You may have noticed in the porch some notices and leaflets in relation to a new method of making contributions to your Parish – by means of text messaging from your mobile phone. This is not intended to replace your normal means of contributing – for instance no gift aid can be claimed on these donations. However, we do have many people visiting our church – either for mass or simply to admire such a beautiful church, and who often wish to make a contribution but aren't quite sure how to. Or occasionally it can happen that people are in such a rush out to be in time for mass (ahem!), that they forget their wallet or handbag. Just text PARISH HIGHG to 70800 to donate £5. This amount will be added onto your phone bill.

Planning your children's Easter Break?:

Premier Sport (Ofsted registered) will be running a holiday camp for 4 – 12 year olds at **St Joseph's Primary School, Highgate Hill, N19** during the Easter holiday's - Tuesday 29th March until Friday 1st April and Monday 4th April until Thursday 7th April. Half Day, £12.95 : 9.00am – 12.30pm, Regular Day, £19.95 : 9.00am – 3.30pm, Extended Day, £24.95 : 8.30am – 4.30pm. You can book individual days as required. Further information or to book on-line please visit www.premiersport.org or for any other queries please call or email Alexandra Smart **m:07824139604 | t:02037403378 | e:asmart@premier-education.com**.