

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

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PARISH BULLETIN

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1st Sunday of Lent (Mass Book page 151)

Registered Charity
1173084

Into the Desert

Fr. George Koloth CP

"In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*:

'Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew' (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer."

-Pope Francis

Lord Jesus,

When you faced temptation, you refused to turn stones into bread.

When we face it, we too often turn bread into stones.

When you faced temptation, you refused to use power for its own sake.

When we face it, we too often assume power that belongs to someone else.

When you faced temptation, you refused to test the promises of God.

When we face it, we too often want God to do what we should do ourselves.

Strengthen our trust in your promises, and give courage to follow through with our promises.

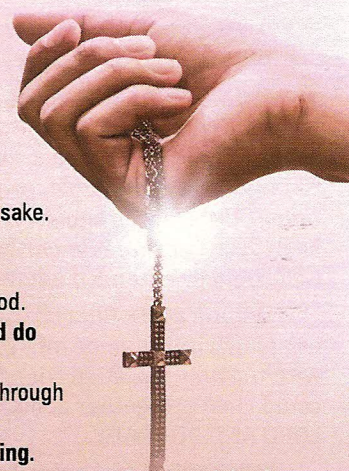
Give us a humility to understand that without you, we are nothing.

Open our eyes to the daily bread of your Word, and to the ways we limit others from receiving it.

Amen.

PRAYER

As we approach these words of wisdom which uncover our nakedness, which reveal our unlovely thoughts and deeds, give us strength to face ourselves, dear Lord. Help us not to be defensive, hiding our faults even from ourselves, but to be confident in the sure knowledge that by submitting our sins to you, we can be free of them. Help us to see ourselves as you see us, clean of bruises and free of disease, able to fulfil the tasks that you would have us do. Help us to believe in the abundant life you offer, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Elating Altar Service Experience

We have been proactive at St Joseph's Church since the age of five. Firstly as members of Children's Choir and immediately after our First Communion as Altar Servers. It has been and still is an elating experience. It is a gracious gift. From the beginning, our parents have been very encouraging and supportive. In the early years, Fr Mark White (Parish Priest then), Ms Shirley Taylor who led the Choir and Ben a Senior Altar Server were helpful and their guidance boosted our confidence. Beside the holy experience, it helped us to be punctual, be actively involved during the Mass and have a better understanding for what is used and why, during the service or Mass. Most of all, rather than just sitting in the pews, Altar serving is a way to help our community experience the mass in a completely different way. It helped us to know our parishioners too.

Recently, Fr George and Andrew, invited us, all the young Altar servers for the different Masses, and some senior ex-Altar Servers to an amazing pizza night at the local restaurant. This was the first of its kind! We enjoyed



Ajong: Pizza night was very fun and I had an amazing time. We played games and ate delicious food and from start to finish the night was amazing. It was an absolute pleasure to have this night thanks father George and Andrew.

Akuac: My experience for the pizza night was very amazing and entertaining. I can tell we all enjoyed ourselves, there was a raffle and a lot of food and drinks! The food was very tasty and delicious, one of my favourite nights! It was really pleasing and I would love to go again! Thank you for this opportunity Father George and Andrew.

Akoor: The best night out with all the readers and Altar services. It was a great opportunity to meet and eat together. Thank you father George and Andrew for organising a night out. It was fun and I really enjoyed it.

sharing our experiences and how we should encourage young parishioners and children at St Joseph's Primary School, to join and have this amazing gift. We are very grateful

to Fr George for bringing us together and his continued kindness, appreciation and blessings.

- Serghel, Naghib and Mesdar

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