



# 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)

## 9th July 2017 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Don't be an Old Fossil!

If you happen to notice that I have a red nose this week-end, and you also happen to see that one of our notices this week is giving you the date for the Christmas Bazaar, please don't worry – I've not lost track of time and the seasons, and no, neither have I started rehearsing for the role of Rudolf in the Christmas play! The explanation is simple - it's just that I've come back from a week away with the leaving class from St. Joseph's School on the Isle of Wight. I gather that the weather here was just as hot and sunny, so you will appreciate what great need there was for the use of factor 50, and I'm afraid I didn't always get it quite right, hence the (by now less shiny) red nose!

I've always enjoyed going on these trips. Apart from being able to help in a practical way with the supervising of the children, it is for me an education in how some things have changed, and some things remain forever the same. I fully acknowledge, for instance, that I am totally out of touch with the modern music scene, so it was somewhat of a surprise on the night they had their disco, to see children from all sorts of ethnic backgrounds bouncing around with great energy, and shouting at the tops of their voices about some Galway girl or other! I didn't quite catch her name, but she seemed very popular. Must ask my sister in Galway if she knows her!

Their trip is designed to be a mixture of education and fun, with the emphasis on the latter while also trying to incorporate the former. If you were to tell me before the trip that you could release a crowd of modern day children onto a beach on a gloriously sunny day, and tell them that they couldn't go near the water, but were to spend the next couple of hours searching for fossils - no, not me, it wasn't hide and seek! – and that they would go around like a brood of chickens pecking away with their fingers at every little stone or shell, and stick at it for two hours, and then say it was great fun, I don't think I would have believed you. It just shows you that, take away the gadgets and all the fancy toys and children are still the same, it's the simpler things that give them the greater fun and satisfaction. (And no, we weren't that cruel – we did let them have a paddle in the water afterwards!)

But it wouldn't have worked if we had not for that exercise been accompanied by a couple of experts in fossils. So the children were constantly running up to them – “what is this”, “what is that” – and getting answers that they could believe, because they trusted the experts. And I think that is the kind of world that Jesus is talking about in today's Gospel, and he's not just talking about children from the point of view of age, but of simplicity. So often in our adult world we get involved unnecessarily in all sorts of complications, where simplicity of heart would be far more fulfilling. When we think of the many wonderful experiences we've had in life, surely it's true that much of the joy came from the fact that we were doing whatever it was with people who were special to us – our parents, our children, our best friends.

And Jesus is offering us that same joy. “Just let me accompany you, and you will find life so much easier, so much more joyful” is the burden of his invitation to learn from him, because he is gentle and humble of heart. Shouldering his yoke is about walking side by side with him, and letting him lighten the loads in our lives. Our problem very often is that, like me on the beach – until I saw it I wouldn't have believed it – we don't think it really possible until we actually try it. We don't really want to become old fossils!

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**We pray for those who have died recently** - James Spillane (funeral 12 noon Tuesday 18th July, reception into church 4.45pm Monday ), Kevin Egan, May Kennedy; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur** – David O'Sullivan, Ena Duffley, Danny McCarron.

### **NURSERY SPACES – St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School & Nursery:**

We still have spaces within our nursery to start in September 2017. The school currently offers full time nursery places 8:40-3:15 and applications are welcome if your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st December 2014 (3 before 31st December 2017).

All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available to download on the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/admissions-2017-2018/> or come to the school Office.

### **Mary’s Meals – Rags to Riches Collection – 2nd July:**

*We have received the following communication during the week -*

A very big ‘thank you’ for allowing Mary’s Meals to again have its Rags to Riches collection at the Catholic Church of St Joseph last Sunday. I am delighted to say that the parish managed to give 245 kg of unwanted clothes; there were also cash donations of £1,760.18 (including one parishioner’s credit card gift of £1000) making a total contribution of £1,897.38.

Please let the parish know how grateful Mary’s Meals is for its support – this is a really excellent result! The amount raised will feed 136 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. Gerrard McMahon, Mary’s Meals.

### **First Communion Photographs:**

The official photographs are now available to order online – a lovely reminder of a very special event. Parents should have received details of how to access and order them but if you need more information email either the photographer [martinblack@me.com](mailto:martinblack@me.com) or [communion.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:communion.joseph@gmail.com) stating which week your child made their First Communion.

### **Grenfell Tower Fire:**

Just a reminder that Westminster Diocese has established an emergency relief fund, which will be distributed through Caritas Westminster and other Catholic charities working in the community. A special donations page has been set up on the diocesan website ([rcdow.org.uk](http://rcdow.org.uk)) with a direct link from the home page.

For up-to-date information on practical needs or volunteering, please see the Kensington & Chelsea Borough website [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk).

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week’s collection amounted to £1,457. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. See also the notice with regard to the Mary’s Meals collection. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

### **Children’s Summer Camps:**

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> August), near Colchester. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit [www.svpboscocamp.org.uk](http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk) for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

### **The Passage Garden Party:**

There will be a Garden Party in aid of The Passage (homeless day centre) in the historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Friday 21 July 2017 from 6.00 p.m. Visit the oldest cultivated garden in England with a back drop of the Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Tickets £40 from The Passage, St Vincent’s Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL tel. 020 7592 1856 email [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk) which includes buffet supper, wine, soft drinks, live music and a prize raffle. Tickets are also available through [passage-garden-party.eventbrite.co.uk](http://passage-garden-party.eventbrite.co.uk)

### **St Joseph's School Summer Fair:**

Come and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at St Joseph School this coming Friday, 14th July, from 3.15-6pm. Activities will include Rides, Stalls, Grand prize draw, Dance workshop, International food and BBQ, face painting, Tombola and much more.

### **Christmas Bazaar:**

I know – hard to be thinking of Christmas in the midst of this beautiful weather, but we appreciate how full your diary can get, so we’re giving you plenty of notice to get **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** in there as the date for our Christmas Bazaar – so no excuses!

### **In case you are admitted to hospital.....**

Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you.