



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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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)

5th March 2017 – 1st Sunday of Lent Parish Stewardship Drive

As mentioned in the bulletin last week, over the next three weeks we are having a “Stewardship” Campaign in our Parish. I am already resigned to the fact that many are going to interpret this as a fund-raising campaign under another title, and I’m not going to deny that there is a fund-raising element to it. But, as we used to say as children long ago, “cross my heart and hope to die”, that is not its primary purpose.

Let me try to explain. St. Joseph’s is one of the oldest parishes in London, dating back to almost 160 years ago. But not only is it among the oldest, but I believe it’s also among the most famous. I always have a sense of pride if I’m visiting elsewhere in London, or sometimes even in other parts of the country, and people ask me where I’m working; when I say ‘in Highgate’, you won’t believe the number of times the response is – “Oh, Holy Joe’s!” I have always taken that as a positive statement, and not a reference to the state of the roof! Clearly, for whatever reason, St. Joseph’s was known as a special parish – and I believe it still is.

I believe there were two factors operating that made St. Joseph’s special. Firstly, it was staffed by a religious order, the Passionists. In itself that can make quite a difference, because typically there will be a whole community of religious – St. Joseph’s once had 30 religious resident in the community – to add their particular talents to building up the Parish. But even more important than that, I believe, is that the people have to ‘own’ the Parish – it has to be in a special way a second ‘home’, a second ‘family’ to them. And everything I’ve heard over the years would confirm that that was how it was in “Holy Joe’s”. People knew each other, and were never slow in volunteering their time and energies whenever something needed to be done.

But times and circumstances change. Clearly the community of Passionists is much less in number – down to five at present, and none of them exactly in their prime! And many of that older generation of parishioner have moved on – one way or another. And the church and the world in general has moved on. The requirements of a parish now are very different than they were say, 50 years ago. But at their core they are still basically the same. How would I sum up the need of a modern-day parish? Not necessarily in order of priority, but there needs to be a solid financial base and there needs to be an ‘owning’ by the people of the parish. If I were asked which of those is more important in St. Joseph’s at present I have no hesitation in answering ‘the latter’.

Please don’t see this as a moan, because it isn’t. We have many people who give very generously of their time and talents to the life of the Parish. But I also believe that are a major number of people who would equally like to do likewise, but for one reason or another have never got ‘round to taking that first step in coming forward. And that’s a major element of this Stewardship Drive – giving people a little nudge towards coming forward out of the shadows and letting their light shine.

There will of course be mention of money, but in a gentle way! Have you ever thought of standing order, or gift aid – that kind of thing. And maybe a little increase in offerings if you haven’t done so already recently? Nothing to get upset about, in other words. But above all we invite you to really feel that you are a valued and valuable part of this special family which is “Holy Joe’s”

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We pray for the sick of the Parish - Fr. Charles Owen CP, Baby Alex; **for those who have died recently** – Joao Teles (funeral 10.45am Wednesday 8th March), Sally Heggarty (funeral 10.30am Tuesday 14th March), Kevin Maguire, John Teatum, Ellen Broderick, Denis McGarry; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – John Anthony Murphy, Margaret Murphy, Ann Galvin.

Coffee Morning This Morning:

The latest in our series of Parish Coffee Mornings is this Sunday, 5th March, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00am. Mass. This is a good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish.

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 (Fr. Rick has been joined by Fr. Enzo from Italy) – 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 in the Cardinal Hume Centre right here in London. 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 the wonderful work of the Cardinal Hume Centre please visit their site - <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/>

As we have done for the past number of years, for the six Sundays of Lent we will be having an exit collection after all Masses, the proceeds of which will be divided between St. Luke's Foundation in Haiti and the Cardinal Hume Centre in London. In addition, there are two wall-boxes located at either side at the back of the church which are dedicated to the same causes. I know you will be as generous as usual in your support of these worthy causes.

Our Confirmation Group thanks everybody who supported last weekend's cake sale, which raised over £650 to be shared between these two projects.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,645. 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

Mass for Bereaved Parents:

The Mass for bereaved parents will take place at Westminster Cathedral this coming Saturday, 11th March at 2.30pm. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

Lent Groups:

There is still time to sign up for this year's ecumenical Lent Groups. Details are available in the porch for a range of courses with daytime or evening meetings to choose from. Courses begin this week so please pick up a leaflet and sign up on the list in the porch as soon as possible. St. Joseph's Group will be studying the new York Course *Receiving Christ, in five different ways*, meeting in the Red Room, 10.45 for 11.00am start on Tuesdays beginning March 7th.

Churches Together United Worship:

Churches Together in Highgate invite you to Evening Prayer here at St Joseph's next 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.

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

(We repeat this in the light of the Cardinal's letter last Sunday) Sometimes people have difficulty contacting the chaplains in the various hospitals. 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**. We advise you to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them – have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them.