



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)

17th April 2016 – 4th Sunday of Easter

The Rain in Spain

I know it's not the usual way we think about God, but from time to time I can't help suspecting that He must have a slightly impish sense of humour. At least I had reason to think so a couple of weeks ago. Because of some items on my schedule I wasn't really free to get away during the week immediately after Easter, and had basically resigned myself to spending the whole of the Easter holidays in Highgate. I don't know where the idea originally came from, but after a number of days of what might at best be described as indifferent weather I decided that I really needed to feel the heat of the sun for a change. Fortunately I have a nephew living on the south-east coast of Spain, and having received confirmation from him that the weather was just perfect at the moment – not unbearably hot, and certainly not cold – I quickly arranged to stay with him for a few days. Thanks to that wonderful Irish airline that shall remain nameless – don't want to sound like I'm advertising! – on Tuesday of the week before last I emerged from the plane at Castellon to be greeted by a burst of – no, not sunshine, but rain. Having checked that we hadn't landed in Kerry by mistake I concluded that God was playing some cruel trick on me!

No doubt you will be relieved to know that by the following morning I was having breakfast on the balcony of my nephew's apartment in beautiful sunshine. (I know we've had a fair few pictures in the bulletin in recent times, but I won't include this one – don't want you to be jealous!) My nephew had to go to work, so I had ample opportunity to head out in the lovely shirt-sleeve weather, into the local town to explore, and enjoy the sunshine. Even though there wasn't a cloud in the sky, remembering the rain (I concluded it was just God wanting to make me feel at home on the first evening!) of the previous evening, I brought my jacket with me – just in case. Within ten minutes I was wearing it, I'm slightly ashamed to say. Why? No, not because it had started raining, or even that it had got cold, but because I felt I was sticking out like a sore thumb! Everyone else was wearing coats and scarves and hats – they were more used to temperatures in the high thirties rather than the low twenties, and as far as they were concerned this was a cold morning. And me in my short-sleeved shirt!

But sticking out like a sore thumb was not something that bothered the early Christians that we have been reading about these last few weeks in the Acts of the Apostles. In fact they gloried in it. Here were people out of the Jewish tradition – still attending the synagogue – preaching a religion that people recognised – about a loving God whose love is extended to all, rich and poor alike. And yet that message stuck out like a sore thumb from their traditional leaders whose concern was more for the letter of the law than for the spirit. Here was a new Spirit being offered – a Spirit of peace and joy and love.

And today our church is inviting people, especially the young adults, to be prepared to stick out – not necessarily like a sore thumb, but certainly as witnesses to this Spirit. Today is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday, and Vocation Sunday. We are reminded that our world still needs that missionary spirit that was so much in evidence in the early Church. We still need people who are prepared to dedicate their lives to spreading that message of peace and joy and love. We thank God for the countless men and women who have carried on that tradition through the centuries and pray that many more of our young people will be prepared to come forward and be the good shepherds of the future. We need them to stand out – not as sore thumbs – but to be outstanding!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Bernadette Sullivan (funeral 11.30am Thursday 21st April), Michael John Barrett, Mary Cosgrave, Waldemiro Luiz Scapin; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Anne Gorman, Luigi Guarnieri.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,590. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. The Good Friday collection for the Holy Places amounted to £537.

Planned Giving Boxes:

Quite a few people have not yet picked up their planned giving boxes for the new tax year which began last Sunday. Boxes are still available to be picked up today or during this coming week. (Please make sure the number of your box is recorded under your name. 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.

Do You Gift-Aid?

The value of your donation can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself, simply by Gift-Aiding it – if you are a tax-payer. The Parish learns nothing about your private financial affairs. The average weekly collection, between plate and standing orders, is approximately £2000 a week. If only half of that was Gift-Aided, it would mean an extra £250 a week, or £13,000 a year, to Parish funds. We are genuinely grateful to those who have been Gift-Aiding. If you haven't been doing so already, and are in a position to Gift-Aid, perhaps you might think of doing so now. Forms are available from the office, or contact Fr. Pat by email. PS – thanks to all the new people who have signed up over the last few weeks.

Apprenticeship on Offer:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery have a vacancy for a Facilities Services Apprentice. Working as a Facilities Support Assistant you will work alongside the Facilities Manager to ensure that the school buildings meet the needs of pupils, staff and the general public. You will support the management of services, such as security, parking and maintenance. If you can develop good working relationships with a wide range of people and enjoy organising, this could be the profession for you. For further information or to apply: <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/702580>

Organ Recital:

The next in our 2016 season of organ recitals will be on Thursday 28th April, which will be performed by students of the Royal College of Music. Admission is free, but all donations towards the repair and maintenance of the organ will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch noticeboard.

Door & Phone Cover:

Due to various changes in circumstances we are once again looking for volunteers to help with answering the door and taking phone calls during the week. We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also there are gaps in the rota for Thursday afternoon (12.00-3.00pm) and Friday afternoon (3.00pm onwards). If you could spare a couple of hours a week on a regular basis and would like to help, please contact Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed:

The popular **Highgate Fair in the Square** will take place on Saturday, June 11th from 12:30 to 5:30 pm. They need around 100 volunteers to help out on the day. If you are able to help, even if it is for an hour or two, please can you phone or email Betty Pires. Email: bettypires1503@gmail.com or tel: 07785925780. Thank you.

Vocations Meetings:

Vocations Discernment Group for adults (18-30's) – 2 special meetings for the Year of Mercy: Friday 22nd April, the Medical Missionary Sisters on the Spiritual Works of Mercy and Friday 27th May, the Missionaries of Charity on the Corporal Works of Mercy. 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace next to Westminster Cathedral. For more info contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk

World Youth Day – Krakow 2016:

Westminster Youth Ministry are leading a pilgrimage for youth 16 years and over to World Youth Day in 2016, visiting both Lodz for Days in the Diocese and Krakow for World Youth Day. The pilgrimage runs from 18th July until 31st July and is priced at £750 - inclusive of all accommodation, travel, WYD fees and food. There is an option for those over 18 to join the pilgrimage for the WYD week only. Registrations are flowing in as the booking cut-off date of 27th May draws ever closer. See porch notice-board for more information, or contact youth@rcdow.org.uk, dowym.com, or 0207-387-1971.

In case you are admitted to hospital:

In light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also let them know that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.

Ceilidh for The Passage:

The ceilidh in aid of The Passage day centre, advertised in last week's newsletter, has had to be cancelled.