



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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

Tel. 020 7272 2320

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

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)

## 28th May 2017 – Feast of the Ascension

### Mission Possible!

I think I've had occasion to mention before that shopping is not my favourite pastime. I find it endurable if I can go to a store, know exactly what it is that I'm looking for, find it, pay for it, and go on my merry way. Even when I may be in a foreign country, and don't know the language, I can usually manage that much – provided of course they speak enough English!

But ask me to do general shopping, and especially gift shopping, and I go into some form of trance. I go from store to store, hoping that something very obviously suitable will 'jump out at me' – but of course it never happens. I look at this – clearly too cheap-looking – , at that – I don't know if they'd really like it – and the other – they probably have too many of them already. And as often as not I go home with nothing – I'll try again to-morrow. And all the time the occasion – Christmas, birthday, whatever – is getting closer, and stress levels are getting higher. It feels like mission impossible!

But at my worst I've never had the experience I heard about not so long ago! (And, I promise, I did not dream this up!) Imagine yourself going into a store. You explain to the assistant that you're looking for a present for a man, we'll say, but you're not too sure what to get him. "How well do you know him?" asks the helpful assistant. "Not that well". And then the killer question – "**Do you like him?**"!!! Wouldn't you really love to answer – "No, not really, but it would be very bad form not to get him a present to mark this special occasion"? What would happen? Would I be invited to "Please step this way, and I'll show you our section with presents for people you don't really like."

What would such a section contain? Cuban cigars that explode when lit? Really beautifully scented perfume that turns bright pink when it comes into contact with skin? Candle-lit dinner for two in McDonalds? The mind boggles! And I presume there have to be sub-sections – for people that irritate you a little, for people that you can just about tolerate, and for people who really get under your skin. "Might I suggest, sir, you buy them this cartoon book on table-manners– they won't really know if it's a joke, or if you're really telling them something!" "Or we have just got in this faulty consignment of what is normally a very expensive champagne – just the thing to make them feel really honoured – that is, until they open it!" "Or we have found that this generally greatly upsets them ....."

But, of course, that's not really what giving gifts is all about. They are intended to be a token of love and respect. The greater the esteem in which the person is held, the more significant (not necessarily expensive!) the gift. When Jesus laid down His very life for us, He gave us a measure of the love He has for us. If He values us that highly, what's blinding us to seeing that value in each other? There is no ambiguity in His love, or in His gifts. And there is no ambiguity in His message to us as He ascends to His father, that it is our mission to spread His message to the whole world – that all lives must be valued and respected. And despite the discouragement we may feel at times – like the week we've just had – He assures us that with His promise to be with us always, even to the end of time, it is very much a "mission possible".

By the way, I'm forgoing all birthday presents this year, just in case!

-----00000OOO00000-----

**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Bridget Mian; we pray for those who have died recently - John Casey, Tom Kenny, Edith Wallington; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Bp. Victor Guazzelli, Elizabeth Wright, Sally Pender, Maureen Jones, Michael Breslin, Paddy Pender, Peter Heavey, Elizabeth Rooney, Eddie Nolan, Ellen Ryan.**

### **Bank Holiday:**

Monday this week is a bank holiday so there will only be one Mass, at 9.30am.

### **Shared International Lunch:**

To celebrate Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch next Sunday 4th June 2017 at 1pm in the Red Room – and, hopefully, spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is a new venture, designed to encourage people to get to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. All parishioners, longstanding or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that, on the day, you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food.

### **Extension of Nursery Spaces at St Joseph's School:**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and **31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2014** (i.e. they turn 3 before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017) they can start in our Nursery Class in the Autumn Term 2017 and we offer full time nursery places 8:55-3:15. Please feel free to complete an application which can be downloaded from the school website (the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) or is available at the back of the church or the School Office. Please hand the forms to the school office after half term on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,307. In addition we receive an average of £800 per week in standing orders. We are most grateful for your outstanding generosity.

### **Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.**

We already have three couples from the parish signed up for this annual event which will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral. For the past few years members of our Parish have attended this very meaningful celebration. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating any of the above anniversaries this year, please give Fr. Pat (email or letter) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Pat will forward any details received to the Diocese, who will eventually issue the invitations directly to the couples involved.

### **Confirmation Photos:**

Photos are now on the photographer's website and are truly beautiful. There is a 10% discount code which is valid until May 27 which is STJO10. If you don't have the website address please contact Cheryl ([felicitymaynard@hotmail.com](mailto:felicitymaynard@hotmail.com)). We ask everyone to try and buy at least a couple of pictures to support the photographer so he will come back again next year.

### **100 Club Results:**

The May Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 108 and the winners were: £400 John Hedderson (103), £100 Joe Liddane (60), £50 Nicholas & Kristin Baumgartner (130). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The June draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **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 in Essex. 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.

### **"Called to Serve the Sick Roadshows":**

Three evening meetings have been arranged to allow clergy and laity an opportunity to discover and question... *What hospital chaplains do:* at St Dominic's Priory Haverstock Hill, Wed. 7th June, 7pm; *How Catholics can realise their unique vocation of being of service the sick:* at Our Lady and St Michael's, Garston, Watford, Mon. 19th June 7pm for 7.30pm; *How to think theologically about health:* at St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm. For registration please email Fr Peter Scott: [peterscott@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:peterscott@rcdow.org.uk)

### **Spirit in the City Festival**

The annual Catholic festival takes place in Leicester Square Gardens on 9th and 10th June, with world-class music, inspiring talks, uplifting performances, family activities, and dancing crowds. Spirit in the City festival has something for all tastes and every age. Each area in the Gardens has its own character and vibe to enjoy with friends and family. All are most welcome to join the celebration. [www.spiritinthecity.org](http://www.spiritinthecity.org).