



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfcp44@yahoo.com) Fr. Tiernan (tiernanpcp@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)

22nd May 2016 – Trinity Sunday UNDERSTANDABLE?

I'm not one who has a terrible lot of occasion to do much shopping nowadays. The occasional foray to a Marks and Spencer's to renew an item of clothing, and the increasing numbers of visits to the pharmacy to keep the creaky old body working, covers most of my shopping excursions. And, of course, there has to be the occasional visit to the newsagent to get that special card for a special birthday or anniversary. But going into a newsagents nowadays has changed greatly from my youth. Before, I could go in, maybe looking for a local paper, and browse through the headlines on a wide variety of papers. Nowadays, if I do the same, I am confronted with papers from all over the world. In many of them I could readily identify the alphabet they were using – the letters were recognisably the same as these ones I'm using. Others have a mixture of letters I could recognise, and letters written backwards or upside-down or inside-out.

Then there are others that are simply a page-full of squiggles, which I take to be Arabic and similar languages, and others still which have little bunches of squiggles tightly packed on the pages – which I take to be Japanese or Chinese or such. If I have been in pious mood at the time I might reflect that God really did make a job of it at the Tower of Babel! I can't imagine in my mind that if I lived for ever I would ever be able to make sense of these pages of squiggles. And yet I realise that for millions of people these make eminent sense, and inform them as to what is going on in the world and where to get the best value in the latest technology, and so on.

I have a similar feeling about the Trinity – it doesn't make a lot of sense to me, especially mathematically, but that's not the same as saying that it's a nonsense. It's a bit like the story of the bishop visiting the school before Confirmation, seeing a picture of Christ being baptised in the Jordan. He points to Jesus and asks "Is that God?" "Yes." He points to the Dove hovering over Jesus' head – "Is that God?" "Yes." He points to the figure of an old man in the clouds overhead – "Is that God?" "Yes." "So there are three Gods?" "No, just one God." To which the Bishop says "I don't understand - you said all three of them were God!" A helpful child, wishing to comfort him in his bewilderment, replies – 'You're not meant to understand it – it's a mystery!' That I can't understand the Trinity is simply a result of the limitations of my mind, not a statement about the truth of the mystery itself. And yet, probing ever deeper into that mystery is a rich source of understanding of the nature of love and life and community.

'Trinity Sunday' is a term that always evokes in my mind the phrase "from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday" – it was the period within which 'especially' we were to make our annual Confession and receive our annual Communion. Now, there's a real mystery – how did the Church ever get itself into the position of suggesting that such minimal standards might ever be in any way a reflection of the message of Christ?

Mystery is not something our scientific world is too comfortable with, and yet aren't so many of the beautiful things in our world steeped in mystery. The mystery of a love that makes two hearts beat as one; the mystery of a baby's chuckle that lights up an entire room. Today we celebrate the mystery of a God, the source of Life, Wisdom and Love, who can still love us despite – or maybe because? – knowing us better than we know ourselves. That's a comforting message, in any language.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Mary Hynes; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** –Fr. Peter Paul O'Connor CP, Tom Lucitt, Carmel Morris, Michael Whelton, Michael Traynor, Bernadette Bolli, Billy Nolan, Ted Duane, Patrick Pender, Charles O'Boyle, James O'Boyle, Florence Tharby, James Michael McDowell.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,720. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai in the centre of Lourdes. It is well-equipped for their care and they are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteer St Frai Helpers. The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. This includes helping the pilgrims get up and ready in the morning; making large amounts of tea; taking the pilgrims to various pilgrimage events; shopping and socialising with them and other helpers; and putting them to bed at night. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends.

Helping in the St Frai is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. Working in the St Frai is an opportunity to give our care and company to our pilgrims and make a huge difference in their lives. If you're interested in helping in the St Frai in Lourdes, please email chief helpers Nick Leonard or Laura Simmonds at nickleonard507@gmail.com or laurasimmonds@ymail.com.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

This year, to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese have organised a pilgrimage to Walsingham on the 9th of July. As there is a limit on the number of coaches the place can cater for, it has been agreed that St. Gabriel's Parish, Archway, and ourselves will just have the one coach between us. The coach will depart from St. Gabriel's church premises at 7am to arrive at Walsingham at 10am. The cost is £18.00. For further information please contact St. Gabriel's Parish office on 02072728195 or Mary Aherne -02072639217.

Evening of Adoration:

You are invited by the Prayer Group to an Evening of Adoration and Intercession - Come and join in intercessions for our children, our families and others. The Lady Chapel - 7.30 pm this Tuesday, 24th May.

Organ Recital:

The next in our 2016 season of organ recitals will be this Thursday evening, 26th May at 7.30pm, to be given by London based organist Richard Moore. Admission is free, but all donations will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch notice-board.

100 Club:

The May draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Can you help prisoners & their families?

You are invited to come & see the opportunities for you to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoner's families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust) works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need. Saturday 11th June Drop in any time between 9.30am – 1.00pm St George's Cathedral (Southwark), Amigo Hall. For more information contact Tom: Thomas.Brindle@prisonadvice.org.uk or call 0203 031 6869

Vocations Meeting:

Vocations Discernment Group for adults (18-30's): Friday 27 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

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23rd & 30th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6th 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 for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

Half-term Holiday Camp:

Premier Sport will again be running a holiday camp for 4 – 12 year olds at St Joseph's Primary School during half term. Tuesday 31st May until Friday 3rd June. Half Day, £12.95 : 9.00am – 12.30pm; Regular Day, £19.95 : 9.00am – 3.30pm; Extended Day, £24.95 : 8.30am – 4.30pm. For further information or to book online please visit www.premiersport.org.