



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)

23rd July 2017 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Open to Change!

I'll admit, I was faced with a little bit of a dilemma this (Saturday) afternoon. Should I try and get together an article for the bulletin, or should I watch the Open? Obviously I went for the former – or you wouldn't be reading this – but it was touch and go! After all, with the closing of the schools for the summer holidays, lots of our community are away. Hopefully they're with family and friends and having a great time. I pity them if they are so bored as to even think of going on the internet just to read a bulletin article. And as for those who are still here, don't they deserve a rest – allow them to listen to the homily for a change? (Only joking, honest!) But in the end I decided that this is going to be the last bulletin for a little while, I might as well make the effort – but with one eye on the Open!

During the week I received an email from a friend, who suggested that the puzzle in it might be of use sometime as part of a bulletin article. My first instinct was "not really" – I don't like discussing politics too much – it tends to be divisive, and there might be people out there who think the Tories have some concern for society's most needy, or who think the world is safe in Trump's hands. But when I saw the gospel for this Sunday I revised my opinion, and decided it is to the point. The puzzle goes like this –

It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts. There are only three candidates, and the following is a summary of each of their characters:

Candidate A:

Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B:

He was kicked out of office twice, Sleeps until noon, is believed to have used opium in college and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening.

Candidate C:

He is a decorated war hero, he's a vegetarian, he doesn't smoke. He drinks an occasional beer and never committed adultery.

Which of these candidates would be your choice? They are three well-known people, but just give them a little thought before checking out below who they are.

In our gospel today Jesus is acknowledging that the world is a mixture of good and bad, of beauty and ugliness, of treasures and rubbish. And it can be a problem in reality judging how best to deal with that world. And we often hear that question – "why does God allow evil to exist?" And our gospel today is suggesting that for God to get involved in our world at that level would mean that we would lose far more than we would gain. We would lose the ability to merit – because we could only do good if no evil was possible; we would lose the ability to reform and to develop morally, because our mistakes would carry instant condemnation. Fortunately our God is a patient God, and hence we can learn from our mistakes. And I'm watching a few golfers at the moment who don't seem to be doing that!

The candidates, by the way, were (A) Franklin D. Roosevelt; (B) Winston Churchill; (C) Adolph Hitler.

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We pray for those who have died recently - Rosina (Rose) Morgan (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 26th July), James Spillane, Betty Donnegan, Danny Sheehy; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur** – Mary Traynor, Jane Bank, Desley Deike.

Summer Break:

As you will see from the preponderance of repeat notices below we are struggling to keep the Bulletin going now that so many people are away and so little is happening. So we may as well face up to the reality and send the Bulletin on holiday as well! In other words, this will be our last bulletin until the end of August.

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.

Back to School/Back to Work Sharing Lunch:

After the magnificent response to the International Lunch we had recently, by popular demand we will be having a similar event to mark returning to work/school after the Summer holidays. It will take place after the 12 Mass on 10th September. More details will follow in September.

First Communion Photographs:

The official photographs are now available online. If you need more information of how to access and order them email either the photographer martinblack@me.com or communion.joseph@gmail.com If you have ordered photographs you can collect them from the Sacristy after any of our masses, Sunday or week-day, up **until 30th July**. After that you will need to contact the Office to arrange collection.

Updates:

Apologies – it’s been a considerable time now since I’ve given an update on the works in the Church and the Growing in Faith Fund. After completion of the roof repairs and the painting of most of the main body of the church, the next hope is to refurbish, and make more welcoming, the porch area of the church. There are some areas of the main body of the church still needing paint – fortunately all at a low level, so no scaffolding! In addition we need to do something with the seating – some have been damaged over the years, and none could be described as ‘fixtures’! Two bits of good news in relation to the above. Firstly, we have verbal permission to proceed; and secondly, because of your generosity in the past, we will **not** be needing to have another fund-raising campaign. Referring to your generosity, and in particular the Growing in Faith campaign, you will remember that it was a five-year campaign. We are now approximately half way through the five years, and to date over £113,000 has been donated, as well as over £13,000 being claimed back in Gift Aid. So once again a very sincere thank you to all who pledged their support and have honoured those pledges so faithfully.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week’s collection amounted to £1,486. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Confirmation Certificates:

Certificates will be available for collection after 7.00pm Mass on Sunday this weekend and next.

Christian Meditation:

The last meeting of the Meditation Group before the summer will be on Friday 28th July. Meetings will resume on Friday 1st September at 8.00pm

New Foundation Degree for Catholics working in Healthcare and those seeking to be Chaplains.

Starting in October, St Mary’s University Twickenham is pleased to offer a new foundation degree in Healthcare Ethics, Theology and Care. This is a part time two year programme for those seeking to be hospital chaplains and for people working in healthcare settings, from care homes, to hospices and hospitals. Lectures and seminars take place at St Mary’s one evening a week and additional lectures and resources are available online. If you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact matthew.james@stmarys.ac.uk

100 Club:

The July 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. Thanks again to all who support the parish in this way.

Road Disruption:

We have received the following notice from Thames Water: - *We will be in the area from Monday 24 July for approximately 3 weeks. We will be working on Dartmouth Park Hill between the junction of Highgate and St. Joseph’s Parish Centre car park. Our working hours will be from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm, Saturday from 8am to 4pm and Sunday from 9am to 3pm. During our work there will be a road closure in place on Dartmouth Park Hill between the junctions of Highgate to the car park entrance of St. Joseph’s Parish centre car park. Footpath access will always be maintained to and from your property.*