



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 (pfcp44@yahoo.com) Fr. George (gaskoloth@hotmail.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)

10th June 2018 – 10th Sunday of the Year

Boxes With Hidden Treasures!

As Catholics it can be very easy for us to be a little bit complacent about the state of the church. We can readily quote Our Lord as telling us that He would be with us all days, even unto the end of time. So, if he's with us, what's there to worry about? Well, a lot, actually. We can be tempted to forget that when Jesus made that promise it was in the context of all his teaching, and particularly that our following of him was going to be an active – we would now say pro-active – living out and spreading of his message throughout the world. And, thank God, there are millions – yes, millions – of people throughout the world trying to live up to that call and challenge, despite the negative image often portrayed of the church. But it is also true that many things have changed. In the western world in general there has been a major drop in the number of people attending weekly mass. There has been a huge drop in the number of people receiving the sacrament of reconciliation in most parishes. And so on.

So it was nice to read during the week of a parish where there has been a recent large increase in the number of people 'going to confession'. I promise you, this story is true – I read it in the papers, so it must be! What happened was that in a church in Rome, quite close to the Vatican, a suspicious package was seen under the priest's seat in the confessional. Being unwilling to take a risk that it might be a bomb, they called the police. It turned out that it wasn't a bomb, but contained over £30,000 in €50 notes. The report said that the police are keeping an open mind as to where the money came from – was it some thief who panicked and left it there? Was it possibly 'conscience money' – something that occasionally happens when someone feels guilty about something they've done, and as reparation anonymously give money to be used for charitable purposes. The local parish priest – seeing an opportunity? – told reporters that every so often anonymous donors would leave sums of money in the confessional, maybe even as much as €1000, for the maintenance of the church. This, apparently, was news to the parishioners, some of whom were subsequently quoted as strongly supporting the need to go to confession regularly!

In our gospel today, the people of Jesus' home parish were faced with their own problem. There were so many people following Jesus that he and his disciples couldn't find time to eat even in his own home. This was so different from the Jesus they all knew – who had lived a quiet life in their midst for thirty years – that they were wondering whether he had lost the plot in some way. So his relatives resolved to 'look after' him. They went to the house where he was preaching and sent word in to tell him that his mother and family were waiting outside. And we're all familiar with his famous response – "Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother." And that is really a most beautiful and simple expression of what we are striving to do as Christians – to do what we prayerfully understand to be God's will for us each day. Not always easy – but then we have the sacrament of reconciliation to help us recover from our mistakes and get the grace and strength to keep trying to do our best. Can't promise large sums of money, but much more significant treasures can be received in our confessional!

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We pray for those who have died recently – Michael Fox (funeral 12 noon Monday 11th June), Pat Dineen (funeral 11.30am Tuesday 12th June), Patrick (Frank) Murphy (funeral 10.30am Wednesday 13th June), May Miranda, Sr. Mary Bruno, Sr. Teresa Roseingrave; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Paul Sutton, Noel McCormack, Bill Slow, Mary O'Shea, John Woodcock, Janet Byrnes.

Afternoon Tea Social, Wednesday, 20th June:

You may remember back in March we held an afternoon tea and social for those interested, with a particular welcome for senior members of the parish and those who would like to spend more time enjoying the companionship of other parishioners. It went very well at the time, with all present being anxious that we continue with such events. It's taken us a bit of time, but at last we're able to announce that we hope to be able to run these teas and socials on a monthly basis, on the third Wednesday of each month, so that it won't clash with events in the community centre. The first of these monthly gatherings will be on Wednesday, June 20th, at 2.00pm. If you know of people who might wish to come, perhaps you could speak to them and check if they would like to come, and if they would need help in getting here. Helpers will also be very welcome.

First Communions:

At the 12.00 Masses on the next two week-ends about sixty of our young people will be making their First Holy Communions. This naturally means that there will be a great increase in the numbers attending those Masses. Those who regularly attend the 12 o'clock mass are of course very welcome to come. We just want to forewarn you that the entire front portion of the church will be reserved for the children and their families, and we expect that there will also be much crowding in the rear section of the church. So you might want to consider coming to a less crowded celebration on those two Sundays, but if you're prepared to endure the crowding – and admire the fashion! – you are most welcome to attend.

Group A will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 17th June. A reminder to them that there will be a practice for them at 11.30am this coming Saturday 16th. Group B will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass on the following Sunday, 24th June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 23rd.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,512. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate your outstanding generosity.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery:

If your child is 3 years old or will be turning 3 in the Autumn Term, apply now for the school nursery. The school is both Ofsted & Diocese rated 'outstanding' and has an ethos based on Faith, Community and a true partnership between school, our church and the families of the children. The school is totally committed to the development of each child, to offer them the very best start to their formal education and to support their faith. The school offers full time nursery places 8:40-3:15 and with the option (subject to availability) of additional breakfast club (£3) from 8am and after school care (£10) until 6pm. Applications available on the website - www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk; or contact the school for further information Tel: 0207 272 1270

An Invitation to Young Adults from the Cardinal:

The Cardinal invites young adults, aged 18 to 30, to join him at Archbishop's House for three meetings (15th May, 29th May, **19th June**, all at 6.30pm) to explore the theme of vocation, with an opportunity for prayer, input, discussion and question and answer. The second meeting has already taken place, but all are welcome to attend whichever meetings they are able. More details can be found on the youth section of the diocesan website (www.dowym.com). If you would like to come along, please let them know by sending a quick email to youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress:

The bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool in 7-9 September 2018. The Echo Arena in Liverpool - which can accommodate 10,000 pilgrims - will be the home to a six-hour stage programme on the 8th September and will include a Congress Mass, keynote speakers Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nicholas, and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with Adoration. For more information and to enquire about tickets to events, please contact adoremus@rcdow.org.uk or call 07738183829 Tickets are available through the Diocese until 31 May.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 21st & 28th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 4th 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.