



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

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Registered Charity 234436



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**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 January 2018 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

*The following reflection on Holocaust Memorial Day has been provided by the Committee for Catholic Jewish Relations of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:-*

Yesterday was Holocaust Memorial Day. In cities and towns across the United Kingdom, events were held to mark the liberation of Auschwitz and to remember the evil and injustice which has characterised genocide wherever it has appeared. Holocaust Memorial Day puts us on our guard against what happens when prejudice and racism are allowed to go unchallenged.

This year, the theme chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day is "The Power of Words".

We are all familiar with those black and white news clips of Adolf Hitler speaking in an animated manner at the mass rallies organised by the Nazis to incite people against Jews and others who were different. Hitler used words to stir up hatred against those whom he wished to annihilate.

Those pictures from the darkest days of Nazi Germany remind us that words can be very powerful. Indeed, we can all recall, from our own experience, instances when the wrong words spoken in the wrong way at the wrong time have damaged a family relationship, a friendship or made a difficult situation worse. Even in our own country, prejudice and racism are increasing - promoted by the power of words.

In the Readings at today's Mass, we have heard of two instances in which powerful words brought about extraordinary good.

Moses gave to God's people the great sign of God's love enshrined in the gift of the Ten Commandments. In the first Reading, we have heard him promising the people that after his death, God would raise up another leader who would continue to speak God's word to them and so reassure them of God's love. Through Jesus, this gift of God's love, and the Ten Commandments as its sign, is made known to all the nations and underpins our society.

In the gospel, we have heard Jesus use words powerfully to set a man free from the power of evil, "Be quiet! Come out of him!". Yes. It is true! Words carefully chosen can bring about great good.

In Nazi Europe, there were those who spoke out against what was happening. Many, such as Edith Stein, Maximilian Kolbe and Franz Jagerstatter paid for it with their lives. Their words, spoken and written, still testify against the evil consequences that flow from prejudice and hatred.

In her diary, the Dutch Jewish girl Anne Frank wrote: "I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived."

We should never underestimate the power of our words to bring about good or to promote evil.

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish** – Mrs Chan Piu Wah, Mrs Pollyanna Mak, Eileen Riley; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Eileen Hughes (funeral 10.30am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February), Mary Joyce, Sr. Magdalene Randall SND; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Clare Fruin, Sarah Pender, Kali Collie), Denis McGarry, Pat McKendry, Dudley Fox, Paddy Healy.

### **Eileen Hughes, R.I.P.**

As we told you last week, it is with great regret that we have to tell you of the sad news of the sudden death of Eileen Hughes last Wednesday week. Eileen, and her late husband Frank, has had a lengthy and extensive involvement with St. Joseph's parish. In recent years she has been living with her nephew James in Chertsey, and our thoughts at this time are with James and his family who have been so caring of Eileen. Eileen's funeral will be taking place from here at 10.30 am on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, with burial taking place immediately afterwards in Islington Cemetery, East Finchley.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,356. In addition to that we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. We very much appreciate that you have very many other calls on your finances, so we are very grateful for your outstanding generosity in supporting your parish.

### **100 Club Results:**

The January Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 106 and the winners were: £400 M.C. Cronin (78), £100 Ned Phelan (43), £50 John Kennedy (15). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The February draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Dates for Diaries:**

The next get-together of the **Youth Group** – open to all between the ages of 13 and 17 – will be on Friday, the **2nd of February**. They will meet in the Red Room from 7pm till 9pm. If you wish to come, please use the entrance on Highgate Hill.

On Mothering Sunday, **11th March**, we are hoping to have a '**brunch**' between the 10 and 12 Masses – further details to follow.

On Pentecost Sunday, **20th May**, we are planning to have our next **International Lunch** – you may remember the bring and share lunch we had last year, which was a tremendous success.

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – helpers needed:**

If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Some of our 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 helper Nick Leonard and team at westminsterstfrai@gmail.com

### **New Playgroup in Parish Centre:**

The new St. Joseph's Parish Bright Stars Stay and Play for 0-5 year olds is up and running. The group will run every Friday during term time from 9.30 - 11am in the parish centre. We have lots of interactive toys, a home corner, arts and crafts and ride on toys. We'll serve tea and coffee for parents and carers. At the end of each session there will be a rhyme time. It's £2 per child.

### **In case you are admitted to hospital.....**

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them – have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to call upon myself or another of the priests here.