



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)

22nd October 2017 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time More About Coins!

No matter how politically inactive we may be, it's generally instinctive in people that they be proud of their own nationality. We can be as critical as we like about our country's shortcomings, but we can easily get very defensive if others voice the same criticisms. Unfortunately national pride can sometimes get out of hand, and becomes disrespect for all others, or at best lack of concern for those not of our nationality. We live in very confusing times, not helped by the replacement of news media by propagandist opinion-spreaders. Once you get past the bare facts, who really knows what is going on with Brexit, or in Catalonia or Myanmar, to mention just some current areas of conflict?

But there's nothing new in all of that. Public political stances and the actual beliefs of individuals have not always been in tune. And our Gospel today is built on that reality. We have a group of Pharisees trying to entrap Jesus into getting involved in a no-win situation, which they themselves had been exploiting to their own ends. "Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not" might seem a relatively straightforward question, but it was a political hot potato. And we're all aware of how Jesus deals with it – by asking for a coin, and pointing to the image of Caesar on it, and making that famous statement – "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

But if we pass off the story as simply Jesus avoiding a tricky situation then we have missed some of the more important points that Matthew is making in telling the story. First of all, Jesus had tricked the Pharisees into producing Roman coinage, which of course they – according to their public stance – should not have been using, because it contained a graven image of the emperor. And anyone who remembered the story of the golden calf knew that such images were forbidden. Matthew completes the story – "This answer took them by surprise, and they left him alone and went away." They knew, as well as Jesus did, that "giving to God" and "giving to Caesar" were not two different coins, as it were, but were two sides of the one coin.

And that's where the challenges in today's Gospel comes from - the recognition that there are no areas of life that are outside our relationship with God. It is one thing to say that we can deal with any more immigrants, but what are we doing to rectify the injustices that force so many people to leave their own countries? It is one thing to say that the whole benefits system is in a mess, but what are we doing to create a society that respects and supports people enough that they don't depend so heavily on benefits? It is one thing to say, as I saw on the news yesterday, that the cost of child-care is becoming prohibitive, but are we in danger of forgetting that the primary source of child-care must be the home?

It can be easy nowadays to get caught up in political discussions on the state of society, and what the governments should be doing – and rightly so! – but it should never divert us from the more immediate questions around our own household, as it were, and how much we are doing ourselves to "give to God what belongs to God". Truth, justice, honesty, love, thanks, etc. etc.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Theresa Fleetwood, Carlindo Sobral Santos; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Dorothy Handerek (funeral 11.30am Monday, 23rd October); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Margaret (Peggy) Coyle, Dorothy Ambler, Hannah Ahern, Ralph Crisp, Julia McIntyre, Nora McGarry, Matt Faherty.

Mission Sunday:

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday. We welcome among us Fr. Mark Odion, a member of the Missionaries of St. Paul, a Congregation founded in Nigeria. We encourage you to support him with your usual generosity.

Confirmation Program:

The first meeting for candidates for Confirmation for next year will be taking place next Sunday, 29th October at 5.00pm in the Red Room. All prospective candidates, their parents and carers are expected to attend.

Special Prayer Vigil in Westminster Cathedral:

You may be aware that Friday 27 October is the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. On this coming Friday, 27th October a Vigil of Prayer will be held in Westminster Cathedral, following the 5.30pm Mass. Our prayer is for all whose innocent lives have been taken during these 50 years; for all who have suffered trauma through abortion; for a conversion of hearts and minds with regard to the God-given dignity of every human life; for God's mercy on us all. A statement marking this occasion is being issued jointly by the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, and of Scotland on Monday 23rd October.

Adoremus Liverpool 2018:

A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for 7-9 September 2018. The highlight of the weekend will be the gathering of 10,000 pilgrims in the Echo Arena on the Saturday, at which the Cardinal will lead us in Adoration, and he and Bishop Robert Barron are scheduled to speak. There will also be a Theological Symposium on the Friday, and Procession and solemn Masses in the Metropolitan Cathedral on the Sunday. Our Parish has been allocated just **seven** places (which is considerably more than the average parish) which need to be confirmed **immediately**, so anyone who might be interested on any of the days should contact Fr. Pat **as soon as possible**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. More detailed information about the events can be obtained at www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,631. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – they need not be members of the parish, or be planning on getting married here. Application forms and further details of the course can be obtained by emailing pfc44@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com.

Parish Bazaar – November 25th:

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 25th of November which, believe it or not, is only five weeks away. As always we are relying on your generous donations of all the usual goods for the stalls: books, cakes, toys, toiletries, homeware, etc. (but do please remember that health and safety regulations nowadays forbid us to sell second-hand electrical goods, used soft toys or clothing that we cannot guarantee have been disinfected) and of course lots of bottles (full, please!) for the Tombola stall – thank you to the many of you who have contributed already. Please bring your goods for stalls **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so that we can start sorting. But also we need volunteers to make it all happen, so if you would like to help in any way, either with the preparatory organisation or on the day itself, please contact Cheryl, whose email address is felicitymaynard@hotmail.com. And finally, we hope you will be able to come on the day and help make this year's Bazaar the enjoyable social event it always is.

Meditation Group:

The Friday evening Christian Meditation Group has resumed and are now meeting in the monastery at the earlier time of 7.00pm.

November Dead List:

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are now available in the porch. Mass will be said each day in November for all whose names are entered on the list.

100 Club:

The October draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members 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.

NO 7.00, 9.00 or 11.00 a.m. Mass next Sunday!

Don't forget you've got an extra hour in bed next Sunday. Clocks go back one hour on Saturday 28th October.