



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)

19th November 2017 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I am a Hole in a Flute “

“I am a hole in a flute that the Christ’s breath moves through listen to this music”

The above quote from the poet Hafiz comes to my mind, as I share a few lines for the bulletin introducing myself to St. Joseph’s Highgate Parish. The poet does not say that he is a flute, but rather he is a hole in a flute! He realizes the central oneness with the divine breath moving through him to play the music.

“*The hole in a flute*” is a powerful metaphor for our discipleship and our journey with the Lord. God works through our emptiness, vacancy, non-presence. When we get out of the way, Christ’s breath moves through us. The metaphor helps me to see my vocation as a Passionist religious in the perspective of humility and gratitude.

In thankfulness to the Lord, I cherish those moments when Christ’s breath has been moving through my being; I was born in Pallipport, a coastal village of Kerala, India, on 3rd November 1969. I belong to a big family of eight children. I was introduced to the Passionist way of life by Fr. Christopher Gibson CP, an Argentinian, who was the vocation promoter of the Passionists at that time.

I did my initial religious formation in Cochin, and completed the philosophical and theological studies in Nairobi, Kenya. I professed the religious vows on 15th July 1989 and was ordained to the priesthood on the 27th of April, 1996, at my home parish of Our Lady of Snow.



As a Passionist religious, the most of my ministry has been in formation of our young seminarians. I was blessed to extend my formation ministry even to the young brothers from China and Vietnam. On recent years, I had been in the administration work of the Passionists in India.

November is the month which starts us off with Feast of All Saints, followed by the feast of All Souls. It is a special time to remember and give thanks! We remember all our loved ones who emptied themselves that we can have life in its fullness as promised by the Lord. I fondly remember my father who died in an accident on this day (19th November 1985), whose selfless life has been source of inspiration and hope in my life.

Let me express my sincere thanks to the community of St. Joseph’s parish at Highgate for your spirit of welcome and hospitality. I feel blessed to be able to journey with you in our life of faith and prayer.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.

Fr. Thomas, C.P.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Clive Nero, Oliver Columb; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Mary Healy (funeral 12 noon Wednesday 22nd November), Eileen Hickey (funeral 10.30am Friday 1st December), Blanca Mackenna, Anthony Mayers; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Brendan Nolan, Mary McCrohan, Kathleen & Michael Boylan, James Pender, John McDonnell.

Christmas Bazaar: * Next Saturday – 25th November! *** 11.00-4.00pm in the Parish Centre**

The eagerly awaited day is nearly upon us, and once again we will be getting under way at the earlier start time of 11.00am - come early and browse the stalls before enjoying some lunch. We will have all the usual favourites, including the ever popular Irish Coffee! **And new this year – BBNWT:** Is your wardrobe full of clothes and shoes you have bought but never worn and still have their tags on? If so please consider donating them to our bazaar for our **Bought But Not Worn with Tags** stall! But we still need a lot more BOTTLES for the Tombola and 'nice' goods for the stalls - please give what you can. We also need HOME MADE CAKES, buns, biscuits, jams and preserves for the cake stall - please bake this week! We need labelled PLANTS for the plant stall. You may bring cakes and plants to the Monastery on Friday, or to the actual stalls on the day. And if you would like to help in any way there is still time to volunteer, please contact Cheryl on felicitymaynard@hotmail.com.

Finally we look forward to seeing you, your family and friends there next Saturday. We have plenty of activities for children, and we have it on very good authority that Santa will be there! So please come along, have a great time, and make this year's Bazaar the successful social event it has always been.

Grand Raffle:

Whether you can manage to come to the Bazaar or not, you can still support us by buying tickets for the Raffle - the tickets are now on sale at only £1 each for the Grand Raffle which will be held on the day.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,520. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Church Cleaning Fest:

Following the success (socially as well as practically) of our previous Cleaning Parties there will be another church cleaning session on Saturday, 2nd December from 11.am to 2.00pm. If you are free for any part of that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way, please sign up on the volunteering list that will be in the porch or email roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com We don't normally have these parties on Saturdays, but we've had a torrent of complaints from people who miss out on Roxane's delicious cakes!

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, is starting this Wednesday, November 15th. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings in the Red Room at 7.15 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com .

Diary Updates - Christmas Events:

We have our other usual Christmas events approaching very rapidly, so make sure you note them in your diary. The **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 10th December at 3.00pm, - any stray angels, shepherds or wise men (or even wise women!) always welcome! And our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm.

Some Technical Issues – Help Appreciated:

Apologies for the issues with sound in the church that we have been having lately. We have had a technician out during the week, and hopefully the problems are solved. We are also having problems with our security cameras, and if we have anyone in the parish with expertise in either or both of these areas their guidance and advice would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2018 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.

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

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) We remind you of the difficulties that sometimes people have in contacting hospital chaplains. 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.** You should also state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many hospitals – including the Whittington - have full-time chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients as needed. Should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please call upon myself or another of the priests here. All we ask is that, if possible, you let the patient concerned know that you've asked us to call. It can be a little frightening for some sick people, especially of the older generations, if suddenly a priest turns up at their sick-bed!