



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE

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Registered Charity 234436



Fr. Pat (pfc44@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)

10th December 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Fowl Play Suspected!

You might possibly be wondering what we're doing with a picture of a hen on the front page of our bulletin this week. Let me straight away – in case there is any confusion – stress that it's a hen, and not a turkey, as I'm aware that turkeys are likely to be a little sensitive at this time of the year! Some of you might be thinking that the reputation of St. Joseph's school has reach such heights that even the best hens – you know, the ones who are aware of the value of a good Catholic education – have been applying for admission. Or possibly – considering the majestic look of the bird – you may be worried that some evil witch has stepped out of the world of Harry Potter and has got to our exquisite Headmistress, and worked some unusual magic spell. Or could it possibly be the case that our superiors in Rome are no longer able to recruit new priests for our community here in Highgate, and have decided to ordain some hens instead? (Who said you can't have female priests, even if they are hens?)



You are possibly aware that the weather lately has been on the cold side – lucky you if you're not! And I hope you haven't been caught by surprise. But I suspect you have been well prepared, and have the summer clothes put away for another year and got the warm winter woolies out. Well, if all of us can be sensibly prepared, why can't our very precious hens in St. Joseph's do likewise? After all, when you come to think of it, Advent is the time of preparation.

And our Gospel reading today is reminding us that that was also the role of St. John the Baptist – his was the voice calling out in the wilderness – 'prepare a way for the Lord'. But his preaching is not some sort of general exhortation to be aware of the coming of Christ – it's much more specific than that. It's a reminder to us that this is a time of repentance, of thinking again about the way we live our lives. It's not assuming we are all bad people, but rather that each one of us, if we can be honest with ourselves, will acknowledge that there are many ways in which we can be better. In days gone by there used to be a lot of talk of New Year resolutions – I don't tend to hear so many of them any more – and since, as we mentioned last week, we have begun a new church year, maybe it's time to once again refresh our commitment to the true values that Christ has taught us, and renew our resolutions to follow Christ more closely.

After all, it's what's eggspected of us! (Apologies.)

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Clive Nero; **we pray for those who have died recently** - Patricia Hind (funeral 12.30pm Wednesday 20th December), Lena Rozario-Martin (funeral 10.30am Thursday 28th December); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – George Barulis, Catherine McHale, Lelia O'Neill, Joan Fox, John Landy, John & Breege Quinn, Frank Quinn, Tom McManamon.

Giving Tree:

Thanks to all the people who have gone to such trouble to already leave in their gifts. For those of you who may be new to the parish, or haven't come across this exercise before, the idea is very simple, and very much in the proper spirit of Christmas. Instead of the usual decorations our trees are bedecked with lots of tags, on each of which has been written a suggestion for a Christmas gift to be given to the poor of our city – local families that our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul are in touch with, and also for the Cardinal Hume Centre, which does outstanding work with families in distress and with the homeless. We invite you to take a tag from the tree, and then during the following week to purchase the item suggested. Items, which should be gift-wrapped should then be brought to the church the following Sunday, with the tags stating what gift is in each parcel attached to them. (Don't worry, the tags will be removed before being given to any individual.) We promise you that all items will be distributed before Christmas. Gifts received by Friday 15th December will be in time for the Cardinal Hume Centre's Christmas Party on the Saturday (but later donations will still be welcome). Many of the items on the tags are of a practical nature, like warm socks, gloves and so on, but there are also suggestions for small non-essentials, like biscuits, toys, books, games, etc – items which for us we're inclined to take for granted, but for others are a luxury that they could never afford to buy for themselves. We particularly invite you to encourage your children to become involved. It's a very practical way to help them appreciate how lucky they are, and maybe spend a little of their own pocket money on a present for a child of their own age who is much less well-off.

Living Crib:

The Living Crib procession is taking place this afternoon, 10th December, beginning at 3.00 pm in Pond Square. This Highgate tradition is a lovely way of preparing for Christmas. We have children taking the roles of Mary and Joseph, but having nobody to play the role of the donkey, we have a real live one instead! We particularly welcome any local (real) angels, shepherds and wise men –and wise women won't be turned away! All are invited to simply turn up on the day appropriately dressed –no need to enrol beforehand. The procession ends here at St. Joseph's with a brief candle-lit Carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Events:

Other Christmas dates for your diaries: our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm, and St. Joseph's School will have their carol concert at 2.00pm this Thursday, 14th December.

Christian Meditation:

The Meditation group won't be meeting over the Christmas period. Their next meeting will be on Friday 12th January.

100 Club Results:

The November Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 106 and the winners were: £400 Denis Ryan (133), £100 Sue Prudo (123), £50 B. Traynor-Jones (141). The December draw will be held early, so monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 17th December.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,506. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Cake Sale This Sunday:

Much work has already gone into preparing for the setting up of a new playgroup – Bright Stars – based in the Parish Centre, for early in the New Year. To help with the initial funding and set-up costs, a cake sale will be held after the 10 o'clock mass today. Cake donations will be greatly appreciated by Lucy and Martina, who are setting up the playgroup. For further information their contact details are as follows: Lucy – 07798 797 390 lucymaryjackson@gmail.com ; Martina - 07474 734278 m.gerngross@gmx.net

Christmas at the Repository:

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and 2018 Calendars, St. Joseph's Parish Diaries and the new Westminster Year Book 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.

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