



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)

5th June 2016 – 10th Sunday of the Year

Unless You Become Like Children

It's been a rather quiet week here – what with so many people being away to enjoy their Bank holiday and mid-term break. I hope they managed to get to either Scotland, or, if they were truly blessed, to Ireland! It seems that these were the places that had a near monopoly on the sunshine this past week. Hard to believe that we're comfortably into June, and still the sun-block remains undisturbed. Somehow the famed global warming seems to have passed me by! But I suppose we shouldn't complain – we should say a prayer, rather, for those who have lost their homes, and in some cases their lives, in the dreadful flooding on the continent. (I'm surprised the 'leave' people haven't yet used this as a supporting argument!)

But, whatever the weather, this is really a special time of the year. For instance, just today we've had two marriages being celebrated in our church – so the air is full of love and joy. And just a few weeks ago we had the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with a group of our teenagers – and that's always an encouraging occasion, to know that so many still have a sense of religion, of values that are not simply selfish, and the courage to come forward and openly profess their belief in a loving God. It will be these young people who, hopefully, will pass on to the next generation the faith that has been so staunchly passed down through the centuries since Christ. And while we appreciate the faith of the young people, we also recognise that this has generally come about because of the quality of faith in their homes – so 'thank you' on all our behalves.

And next week-end we'll be having the first of our First Communions for the children of the Parish, and there will be lots of happy faces, young and old, celebrating the sheer joy of the occasion. These occasions help us to appreciate what kind of image Christ must have mind when He uttered those immortal words – "Let the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them", and again "unless you turn and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." I know, when you're living with them every day, and when they have their moments, these sorts of sentiments may appear rather unrealistic, but on days like First Communion; at those times when you get the special hugs; during those special moments that you alone share with them; these are times that help to remind all of us of the more important things in life – love, trust, innocence.

I had occasion recently to look up the origins of the word 'innocence'. Without boring you with details, it's based on Old French and Latin words that can mean either 'not hurt' or 'not hurtful' – 'innocuous' and 'not noxious' come from the same roots! Losing our innocence usually comes when we have been hurt, or when we've learnt to be deliberately hurtful towards others. When Christ invites us to become like little children, He is in a very real sense inviting us to return to innocence – to take our hurts to Him and allow Him "to make them better" as He hugs us with those loving arms that were stretched out in love for us on the cross. He invites us to bring to Him those moments of frustration or anger that make us want to lash out and be hurtful and allow His soothing embrace to calm us down.

We rightly are very concerned about the upbringing and education of our children, and of course we want the very best for them – but I think occasions like First Communion days are very healthy reminders to all of us that there are lessons that it wouldn't hurt us to learn from them!

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Sean Doherty; we pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Eddie Nolan RIP, Ellen Ryan, Rosario Gallo, Mary O'Shea, John Hearty, Otto & Erica Keller, Mary McLoughlin.

First Communions:

At the 12.00 Masses on the next two week-ends many 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 draw your attention to the fact 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 you are most welcome to attend.

Group A will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 12th June. A reminder to them that there will be a practice for them at 11.30am this coming Saturday 11th. Group B will be having their celebration at 12 o'clock Mass on the following Sunday, 19th June, with their practice session at 11.30am on Saturday 18th.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,425. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month.

Organ Recital:

The next in our season of organ recitals will be this Thursday evening, 9th June at 7.30pm, to be given by Stephen Disley of Southwark Cathedral. Admission is free, but all donations will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch notice-board.

Churches Together United Worship:

The next in the series of shared worship events taking place in the various churches in the Highgate area will be at 6.00pm next Sunday, 12th June, at All Saints Church in Talbot Road. Revd. Peter Vannozzi from St. Augustine's will be preaching on the subject of Barnabas.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

This year, to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese have organised a pilgrimage to Walsingham on the 9th of July. As there is a limit on the number of coaches the place can cater for, it has been agreed that St. Gabriel's Parish, Archway, and ourselves will just have the one coach between us. The coach will depart from St. Gabriel's church premises at 7am to arrive at Walsingham at 10am. The cost is £18.00. For further information please contact St. Gabriel's Parish office on 02072728195 or Mary Aherne -02072639217.

Door & Phone Cover:

Due to various changes in circumstances we are once again looking for volunteers to help with answering the door and taking phone calls during the week. We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also there are gaps in the rota for Thursday afternoon (12.00-3.00pm) and Friday afternoon (3.00pm onwards). If you could spare a couple of hours a week on a regular basis and would like to help, please contact Fr. Pat at pfcp44@yahoo.com

Can you help prisoners & their families?

You are invited to come & see the opportunities for you to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoner's families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust) works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need. Saturday 11th June Drop in any time between 9.30am – 1.00pm St George's Cathedral (Southwark), Amigo Hall. For more information contact Tom: Thomas.Brindle@prisonadvice.org.uk or call 0203 031 6869

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23rd & 30th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6th 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.

Catholic Referendum Debate:

On Wednesday 15 June, Catholic Voices have organised a debate, featuring a number of Catholics in prominent British public life, on the subject of the forthcoming referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. The debate will take place from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall. Tickets are £10 (£6 concessions). For further information and to book, please visit catholicvoices.org.uk.

Other Notices:

We remind you that we receive many more notices each week than we could possibly put in the bulletin. We encourage you to consult the notice-board in the porch for information on a wide range of activities taking place within the Diocese.