



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE  
Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

## 16th October 2016 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Watch and Pray

It's been an unusual week for me. For most of the week I have been the only active priest present here in St. Joseph's, as the rest have been away to all corners of the globe – slightly exaggerated, but you know what I mean. But that wasn't the factor that caught my attention. It was that I found myself frequently stretching my arm so that my sleeve would go up a little and I would be able to see the time on my watch. It's not that I was particularly under any stress with regard to times for appointments or anything – I suppose it's just one of those things one does out of habit, rarely giving it any thought. In fact I've heard it being remarked upon that very often if you spot a person looking at their watch, and you ask them ten seconds later what is the time, they won't know – they'll have to look at the watch again! Me too! But what was particularly noteworthy in my regard this week was – that I didn't have any watch on my arm! It was in the jeweller's getting a replacement band, because the previous one had disintegrated. So why all the wrist-watching?

It got me to thinking about many of the things we do during a typical day. I can't speak for anybody else, but on reflection I have to admit to myself that I can do a lot of things without my mind entering into the process at all. From getting up and getting washed and dressed to having meals, to checking on emails, to watching TV, and retiring for the night (notice – golf isn't in there!) many of the things I do are 'automatic' – no thinking required! In fact, sometimes it's when I start thinking that the problems arise – e.g. "I know I came up the stairs for something in particular – what was it?" or "there was an important thing I wanted to particularly mention to someone the next time I saw them, but now they're here I can't remember it."

As a priest I have to admit that I find myself asking myself the same question in relation to some of the people I meet. How much thought have they put into, for instance, having their children baptised? Is it just something that has become a sort of family tradition, or does it really indicate a wish for all the family to become genuine members of a special community of believers in Christ? Of course I can't judge anybody else's state of mind, but external signs sometimes are not too encouraging! But I do have to ask myself am I contributing to devaluing the sacraments by not checking a little more thoroughly? Maybe I need to give that a little more thought.

I suspect the woman in our Gospel story this Sunday had put a lot of thought into how she was going to approach the judge who was not giving her her just rights. She knew the kind of man he was – not too interested in giving any thought to the rights or needs of others. But she knew that constantly turning up was causing him to realise that this woman was becoming too much a part of his life, a life that didn't have room for her, and the quicker he got her out of it, the better. Fortunately we don't worship a God like that! He listens to/for all our prayers – if only we would have faith in him.

-----ooooooooOoooooooo-----

**We pray for those who have died recently** – Agnes Murphy (funeral 11.00am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, reception 5.30pm Wednesday), Leyla Nadia Baulackey, Frederick John Wright, Anthony Ferns, Damian Hogan; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Margaret (Peggy) Coyle, Annie & Thomas Cardiff, Raymond Hogan, Shane O'Connor.

### **Fr. Ray's Return to Australia:**

Many of you will be aware at this stage of the imminent departure of Fr. Ray to Australia after almost eight years of service to the Parish and community here at St. Joseph's. Originally he served as a member of the Parish team but was asked by our superiors to take over leadership of the Passionist community, which role he has filled for about the last seven years. To mark the occasion of his departure, and to give people an opportunity to say farewell, Fr. Ray will be saying the 10 o'clock mass this Sunday, and immediately afterwards there will be a little party in the Red Room, to which you are all invited. We thank Fr. Ray for his dedicated service to Saint Joseph's and wish him every blessing and success in his future undertakings.

We also welcome Fr. Anthony O'Leary among us – a Passionist from Dublin who has agreed to help out for some of the period that Fr. Tiernan is in Australia for the funeral of his step-father. We're very grateful to him for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us.

### **First Holy Communion Program:**

We apologise to all the candidates that the books for this year's program have not yet been delivered. But classes will carry on as normal. There are close on 60 candidates this year, and we pray that this whole period of preparation, as well as the actual celebration itself –next June – will be a very special time for them and their families. We remind parents that all candidates are expected to sit together in the front seats of the Church at the 10 o'clock mass on the mornings they have class.

### **Church Cleaning:**

A sincere thank you to all those helping with the cleaning of the Church in readiness for the week-end masses. It appears that Saturday mornings at 11.00am is best for most people. So if you've been meaning to come, but maybe forgot it on the day, please feel free to come any Saturday to give a helping hand.

### **CAFOD Fast Day:**

If for one reason or another you didn't manage to make your contribution to the Cafod harvest collection last Sunday, you can still hand in your contributions today and they will be forwarded to Cafod.

### **Pre-Marriage Course:**

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2017 – 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](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com)

### **Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:**

The RCIA course - for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, – will be starting shortly. The course is free, on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at [pfc44@yahoo.com](mailto:pfc44@yahoo.com) Parish members who would like to take part and refresh their knowledge of the faith, and share their experience of faith with others, are very welcome. Each session is a complete unit, so no need to commit to the whole program. Please let Fr. Pat know if you are interested.

### **Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 19th November:**

Our Bazaar this year is on Saturday 19th 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](mailto: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.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,637. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. The CAFOD Harvest Fast collection last weekend raised £817. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

### **St. Joseph's Primary School:**

St Joseph's Primary school would like to invite you to one of their open mornings; **Tuesday 18th October** or **Tuesday 22nd November**. Registration and refreshments from 9:15am. All forms and the Admissions Policy which sets out the criteria for offering places at the school, are available from the school office or to download from the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/>