



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 February 2017 – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Writer's Block

It's four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and not a single bit of inspiration for an article for the bulletin! I'm suffering, it would appear, from a severe attack of writer's block. Looking out my office window I see that there is glorious sunshine outside, and looking at another app – not the one counting my steps! – on my phone I see that the temperature is 12 degrees. Perhaps I should forget the bulletin and just go for a walk in the park – kill two birds with the one stone, as it were; get a decent breath of fresh air, and keep my app happy with a decent addition to the step count.

So off I go, and I'm hardly in the gate of the park when I'm confronted by a young girl from the school, on her skateboard, helmet on her head, and singing away to herself – daddy and younger brother are a little behind. A cheerful exchange of hello's, and I'm feeling better already. On a little distance further, and I'm now passing the 'baby' play area – more crowded than usual because of the beautiful day. Another daddy is pushing his daughter – I'd guess maybe two years old - on the swing. What particularly catches my attention as I pass by is that the daughter is calling to her mother – "Look mum, I am going quite high." (That is a direct quote.) I couldn't help but think how times have changed. When I was young there was a tree at the end of the cul-de-sac and occasionally someone would get their hands on some old rope and make a swing from one of the low branches. No factory-made swings were ever seen in anybody's garden in those days. Depending on the strength of the pushers one might swing as high as the wall beside the tree, or maybe even get 'away up in the air'. But I can never remember someone getting 'quite' high!

And as I continued my walk around the park, that got me to thinking of how much our use and knowledge of words have changed. The only times I can remember the word 'quite' being used when I was young was when in the middle of my excuses for why, for instance, the sole was separating from the upper of my shoe (an unfortunate frequent side-effect of playing football in the street), my mother would ask – obviously reaching the end of her patience – "Are you quite finished?" before letting me know what the consequences were going to be. Of that you could be 'quite' certain!

By now, as I continued to wend my way around the park, I was thinking of our usage of other words, and particularly one used in our gospel today – 'love'. I think many of us have difficulty with Jesus's use of it in that famous phrase – 'love your enemies'. But, when you think of it, it does make a lot more sense if we think of how we use the word in so many other contexts. Clearly a person doesn't love their spouse in the same way as they love their children, which is different again from how they love their own parents, which is different again from how they love their friends. And all those kinds of love are very different from how we love chocolates, or our favourite soap opera. And our enemies? Wouldn't we love if we had none; wouldn't we love if they would learn to be loving rather than hateful people?

And as I got to the end of my circuit of the park I realised I had better get back to the office and think of something for the bulletin. Wouldn't I love if I had it all finished now and it was ready to be printed off and left in the porch?

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We pray for those who have died recently – Margaret Leyden RIP (funeral 11.30am, Thursday 23rd February), John Teatum (funeral 10.30am Friday, 3rd March), Denis McGarry, Richard Hill; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Bro Bernard Connolly CP, Tommy & Kathleen Carrol, Danny Benstock, Members of the Madden Family, Sarah Pender, Jeremiah & Catherine Harrington, Rosita Estadilla.

APF - Mill Hill Mission Thank You & Appeal:

This weekend we welcome Mrs. Eileen Tompkins who will take the opportunity to thank the Parish for their support through prayers and donations to their 1069 World Missions. Please note that there will be **NO** cash collection - the thank you and appeal is to inform you of the work carried out by APF - Mill Hill and to ask for continuing prayers and financial support, which can be given through their "Red Boxes". *Truly nothing is more beautiful than to know Christ and to make him known to others.* Pope Benedict XVI

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,412. In addition we also receive approximately £1,800 in standing orders each month. We thank you for your continuing generosity.

Cake Sale Next Sunday:

This year's Confirmation class will be making cakes and selling them at 10, 12 and 7 pm Masses on next Sunday, February 26, as well as running a coffee morning after 10 am Mass in aid of Haiti and the Cardinal Hume Centre. All donations of cakes would be welcome.

Lent Groups:

Details of the ecumenical Lent Groups meeting this year are available in the porch. There is a range of courses with daytime or evening meetings to choose from. Courses begin in the week of 6th March so please pick up a leaflet and sign up on the list in the porch as soon as possible. St. Joseph's Group will be studying the new York Course *Receiving Christ, in five different ways*, meeting in the Red Room, 10.45am–12 noon on Tuesdays beginning March 7th.

100 Club:

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

Women's World Day of Prayer:

The theme of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be prayer for the Philippines. It will be held at 10.30 am on Friday, 3rd March at St. Peter le Poer, Muswell Hill. The church is at the corner of Albion Avenue and Colney Hatch Lane and can be reached by the 43 and 134 buses.

Mass for Bereaved Parents:

The Mass for bereaved parents will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 11th March at 2.30pm. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 3rd June, 2017 at 3pm. For the past few years members of our Parish have attended this very meaningful celebration. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating any of the above anniversaries this year, please give Fr. Pat (email or letter) the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Fr. Pat will forward any details received to the Diocese, who will eventually issue the invitations directly to the couples involved.

Thanksgiving for the Holy Year of Mercy:

You are invited to the last of 6 talks organised by St Patrick's, Soho in thanksgiving for the Holy Year and also to mark the proposed stained glass windows for the Church. Dr Gabriele Finaldi, who is a Director of the National Gallery, is giving the talk on "The Crucifixion, icon of love and mercy" on Monday 6th March 2017 at 7pm. All are welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima:

Since the good old days of Frank Hughes of happy memory, there have been no pilgrimages run specifically from St. Joseph's Parish (hint, hint – if there's anybody out there willing to take on his mantle!), but there are of course many Pilgrimages run on a Diocesan-wide basis, which members of the Parish are welcome, indeed encouraged, to join. In a few months time there will be the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima, from 24th to 27th April 2017. This is the Centenary Year of the Apparitions in Fatima, so it will be a particularly significant pilgrimage. Places are still available to book. If you are interested you should contact Gill of Tangney Tours directly on 01732 88 6666 for further information. The Pilgrimage will be led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Pilgrimage Director is Fr Chris Vipars.