



# 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](mailto:pfcp44@yahoo.com)) Fr. Tiernan ([tiernanpc@gmail.com](mailto: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)

## 13th November 2016 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Hope For the World?

Well, let's begin with the good news this week. You may remember last week I mentioned that our painting work in the church had been stopped because of lack of paper-work that was not of our doing. I'm happy to be able to say this week that common sense has prevailed, and the painters have been busy making up for lost time, and we are still hopeful that all will be finished by the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. To be honest, it was a great relief to get to sleep again at night, as the potential cost of not reaching a positive solution quickly was certainly keeping me from my usual sweet dreams – and that takes a lot of doing! But, as they say, all's well that ends well.

It was a little bit of a dampener, then, to read the opening lines of today's Gospel. "*When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.'*" Not exactly what one wants to hear when so much effort and time, not to mention money, has gone into adorning our temple! But of course Jesus wasn't really remarking on the temple as such, or its state of decoration, but using it as a way to remind people that nothing lasts for ever, not even such an impressive building as the Temple in Jerusalem. And despite that fragility of all things worldly He wanted them to be aware that we should always face the future with Christian Hope. Jesus was aware of people's fascination with the end of the world, but broadly indicated that trying to predict it was a bit of a fool's errand, and anyway, the more important thing was how we live our lives in the meantime.

Facing the future with Christian Hope is something a lot of people found difficult after last Tuesday! I know I won't be around, but it would be interesting to see how in fifty years' time the world will look on 2016 – the year of Brexit and Trump – that's assuming there will be a world there in fifty years' time! But, in the spirit of today's gospel, we mustn't get pessimistic. While what goes on on the world stage is of course vitally important, true happiness is generally found much closer to home.

In an interesting phrase in today's Gospel Jesus – after He has warned them that there are going to be very difficult times ahead – tells his disciples "and that will be your opportunity to bear witness". At the very least recent events should give us the opportunity to look at the fragility of our lives and of our world. At times we can be lulled into thinking that we are really in control of our lives, until something totally unexpected happens – of natural (think tsunami, earthquake, fatal accident) or human origin – and our world is turned upside down. If, after the initial shock, we still feel angry, frustrated or whatever, the question has to be 'why?' Do we really leave our happiness, our peace of mind, in the hands of others, or of chance?

Our faith doesn't ask us to be unaware or uninvolved in what goes on in our world, but it does invite us to place our hopes and dreams in something less volatile than people's exercise of their vote! Our hope, surely, is in the goodness of people – who can be fooled, but not all the time! – and more importantly in the love of Jesus. The words are easy to say, but it's those times when things aren't proceeding as smoothly as we might like that our hearts are really tested. All those that matter still love you! And so does Jesus.

-----00000OOO00000-----

**We pray for those who have died recently – Janusz Pikula; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Hannah Lucitt, May Mulvey, Phil O'Keefe.**

### **Christmas Bazaar: \*\*\* Next Saturday – 19th November! \*\*\* 11.00-3.00pm in the Parish Centre**

The eagerly awaited day is nearly upon us, and we will be getting under way earlier this year, **please note the new start time of 11.00am** - come early and browse the stalls before enjoying some lunch. We will have all the usual favourites, including Irish Coffee back by popular demand! 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](mailto: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! On a more serious note we would like to remember two long-standing stall holders who sadly we have lost during the past year – Perry Clune and Ena Duffley. 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.

### **Evening Prayer for Remembrance Sunday:**

Join together with other Christians from our Highgate Churches in an ecumenical service for Remembrance Sunday, here at St. Joseph's, this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm. The service will be led by Fr. Tiernan, and we will be welcoming Rev'd Robert Willoughby from St. Michael's as preacher.

### **November Dead List:**

The usual envelopes and sheets for the November altar list of the dead are still available in the porch. Mass is being said each day in November for all whose names are submitted for the list.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

Other Christmas dates for your diaries: the **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm, and our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

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

Our next pre-marriage course will be 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)

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,769. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. The Mission Appeal for the Columban Fathers raised £1,041.88. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

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

If you weren't able to make it to St Joseph's Primary school's open morning in October, fear not – you have another opportunity on **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/>

### **Christmas at the Repository:**

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2017 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.

### **Year of Mercy:**

The Cardinal will mark the end of the Jubilee of Mercy in the Diocese by closing the Holy Door in the Cathedral in the context of Vespers at 3.30 pm this Sunday, 13 November. Archbishop Welby will preach.

### **Towards Advent :**

A Festival of Catholic Culture is being held on Saturday 26th November in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue London SW1 1QJ from 10am. Over 30 organisations will be attending and it is an opportunity for them to give an insight into their activities and they will also have many articles for sale. Admission is free. In addition some talks and workshops will be given during the event. Further details are available on [towardsadvent@blogspot.com](mailto:towardsadvent@blogspot.com)

### **St Gabriel's Retreat:**

St. Gabriel's Parish are having a retreat on the lives of the saints to mark the start of Advent and the Golden Jubilee of their Church in 2017. There will be two sessions on Friday 25 November (11 am and 6 pm) and one session on Saturday 26th at 11am. Refreshments will be served after the Masses.