



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)

25th June 2017 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Let me stress, before I say anything else, that as far as I am aware I have no personal knowledge of any individual involved in any way in the tragic events at Grenfell Tower. Like anybody else I was shocked by the horror that it must have been for all involved, and by the catalogue of mistakes that led to it happening. I was also, of course, impressed by the positive and practical response of so many people in the aftermath. And in the time since I have often found myself thinking about the many people involved in their different ways. Firstly, the victims – those who lost their lives, and those who escaped, but whose lives will probably never be the same again. Then, all those who came to their aid – the professionals like the fire services – and the thousands of volunteers who did whatever they could, in whatever way they could, to help the victims in their time of desperate need. And, finally, those responsible for making official decisions – both before and after the fire, and who clearly made lots of bad mistakes. And what do they all have in common? Each of those groups of people are most likely made up of a cross-section of humanity.

A lot of the focus, particularly in the media, going forward, is going to be on those people who made some catastrophically bad decisions in relation to the safety of the tower-block. As I said, I don't know any of them personally, but I'm prepared to believe that most of them are just ordinary people who in their own way are trying to live a decent life, providing for themselves and their families as best they can; would never deliberately harm anybody; were probably as horrified by what happened as the next person; if it happened near their homes would probably have been among the first people volunteering to help. I think of one superior I once lived with, who having been warned that the fire insurance would be invalidated if he continued to have fire-doors jammed open, responded (not to the insurance company, of course) that he wasn't going to have an insurance company telling him what he could or couldn't do in his own home – and continued to jam them open! He obviously thought a fire would never really happen – as probably did those people responsible for safety in tower blocks.

There are many occasions we make decisions when we know we can't be one hundred per cent certain of the outcome, but common sense tells us that the more important the decision the less of a gamble there should be about it, and the more certainty we should be looking for. Any parent worthy of the name wants the best for their children, and knows that what's the best for one child isn't necessarily the best for another. And they will put a lot of thought into the decisions they have to make with regard to their development and education. And the welfare of children is an immense responsibility, such that some parents can find it very difficult to deal with it – maybe they themselves when they were young weren't given a solid framework for making good and wise decisions. And it can be very tempting to take the easy, and not obviously wrong, option now, only to find later that taking the more difficult option would have been better in the long run.

So far I haven't even mentioned God! And, in a sense, that's my point. All the above is about natural common sense and the natural decency in people. But as Christians we are called to a higher level, but with the reminder and comfort that we have in today's gospel – that we are never on our own. In God's eyes we're more precious than even the beauty of nature. He is always watching over us – as distinct from just watching us! It's the privilege of Christian parents to help Him protect and nourish His "little ones". And our prayer especially this week-end is that all those who are making their First Communion will always benefit from the wise decisions and support they need in their families.

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

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur – Jose Alfredo Davila, Pat Goodson, Lizzie Lyons, Julia Ita Hearn.