



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 (pfc44@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)

11th September 2016 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Surprise, Surprise!

I suppose it's very much part of being young that one should from time to time look forward to what the future may hold. Can you remember that far back? For the very young nowadays it may centre around being a star in some high-profile area of life – like being a pop-singer or film-star, or footballer. As we get older the dreams get a bit more realistic and may centre around careers – being successful and making a difference - and/or marriage – meeting the perfect partner and being the perfect parents. And as we get older still we may consider planning how to spend our retirement, or our relationship with the grandchildren – “I really love to see them, and I also love to see them go!” And while it's true that as we get older the body, with its growing number of ailments, may slow us down, we still feel young enough in mind to be thinking of the future. I remember, after being asked to come to Highgate having my own expectations of what the future here would hold for me. Will I ever forget my first Sunday morning after arriving in Highgate going out to the church to say mass, and picking my way between the buckets and towels that were all over the sanctuary to gather the water pouring in through the colander roof. I knew then that there were challenging times ahead!

The thing is, when I was young, thinking about becoming a priest, and later training to be a priest, fixing roofs and painting walls, endless meetings with architects and planners, hours of filling out forms, never came into my dreams of my future! I was going to be spending my time saying masses, hearing confessions, giving the greatest sermons ever to be heard, visiting the sick, burying the dead, blessing marriages, and such ‘holy’ things – as distinct from ‘holey’ things (sorry, couldn't resist that awful pun!). But then I realise that I'm not any different than anybody else, in that our futures rarely turn out the way we expect – which by and large is probably a good thing.

And I'm sure the father in our gospel story today didn't anticipate the way his two sons would turn out. but even more significantly from our point of view, neither of the two sons anticipated the way the father would re-act when the younger son had behaved so badly. I don't know how the two sons would have got on after the events of the parable, but hopefully they learnt among other things that people are full of surprises – that, given a chance, most people will re-act positively if treated with respect, and will generally be willing to give a helping hand where possible. (So, out with the paint-brushes! No, don't worry, just my awful sense of humour.) So, let's not pre-judge people – let's give them the chance to surprise us with their goodness. And that applies to God also – the extent of His Love is hard for many people to take in.

And one small little surprise I received during the week was from the foreman on the job, who told me that the scaffolders would be bringing in even more men so that they could have it all up before this weekend – which they did. So they're already a little ahead of schedule. And in the meantime we have managed to attach the speakers to the scaffolding in the hope that normal sound can be restored, and we've got some temporary lights on the sanctuary so that you will be able to spot the celebrant! Oh, and we've got a sign-up sheet in the porch for those who might help with having the church clean for our week-end services. I'm eagerly waiting to be surprised by the number of people who will sign up!

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

We pray for those who have died recently – Alice Ryan (funeral 12.00 noon Friday 16th September), Terry Durkin; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Eileen Dineen, Desley Deike, Jim Matthews, Martin Morrissey, Breeg Conlon, Andy Lloyd, Anthony Buckley, Una Phelan, Margaret MacDonogh.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

While detailed dates for the actual beginning of the programs have not been finalised as yet, application Forms for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programs are available in the porch of the church. We remind you once again that these programs are solely for children either living in the Parish, regularly attending mass in the parish, or attending school in the parish. We also remind all parents concerned, that children will not be accepted on either program unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate** – so if you don't have one to hand, then we advise you to immediately set about getting one! For children baptised here in St. Joseph's the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and the homes of the candidates, and hence involves quite a degree of commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. Naturally the children are required to attend mass each Sunday, and we of course expect their families to support them by good example.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,663. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

Prayer Groups:

The Christian Meditation Group has resumed meeting at 8.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Charismatic Prayer Group meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, resuming on 13th September. New members welcome for both groups.

Healing Mass:

You are invited to a Mass for Healing of The Family Tree here at St. Joseph's at 2.00pm on Saturday 24th September 2016. Please see poster in church porch.

Coffee Morning:

Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care nurses, in St. Joseph's Parish Centre on Sunday 18th September, from 10.30 am until 1.30pm. Please support this worthy cause.

Junior Liturgy:

The 'Junior' liturgy at the 10 mass has resumed. We remind you that this is for children who have not yet made their 1st Communion. To help them have more time, they begin immediately after the opening hymn and greeting – so please make sure that they are all here in good time as late arrivals can be very disruptive.

Volunteers Urgently Needed:

We have been very blessed over the years that there have always been people prepared to sacrifice some of their time on about 12 Sundays of the year in order to prepare our young people for their 1st Communion. But we can't realistically expect the same people to be volunteering year after year and indefinitely, so it is important that we get some new people to replace those who can no longer serve the parish in this way. All necessary training and support will be provided to all volunteers. If you feel you could serve the Parish in this most important way, or if you would like to talk over the possibility, then please let me know at pfc44@yahoo.com – parents of children who will be making their First Communion or Confirmation next year, or retired teachers, would be particularly welcome.

Practical Help:

On Thursday the 22nd of September, Caritas Westminster will be sending a team of staff and volunteers to visit the Jungle in Calais. The team will be working with Caritas France and Brother Johannes Maertens of Catholic Worker who founded the Mother Maria Skobtsova House of Hospitality based in Calais. Please help us by donating these items! **Food:** Dried foods e.g rice, pasta, Herbs and spices, Cooking Oils, Canned foods e.g. fruit, veg, soups, beans, UHT milk: No pork products please. **Clothes/shoes:** Jackets, Men's T-shirts, New Underwear, Shoes/Sandals, Slippers. **Toiletries:** Shampoo, Conditioner, Hair Oil, Body oil, Moisturiser. **Miscellaneous:** Toilet Paper, Tissues, Bicycles. **Please donate items to St Joseph's Pastoral Centre by Friday the 16th of September:** St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. (Please do **not** deliver to the Parish here.)

Mother Teresa Canonisation:

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of Mother Teresa on Friday 16 September 2016 at 5.30pm in the Cathedral.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Albans:

The Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral takes place on Saturday 8 October 2016 led by Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. The pilgrimage begins in Verulamium Park at 2.30pm, with an enactment of the story of St Alban, a procession into the cathedral, past the shrine of St Alban, and ecumenical Evensong at 4.00pm in the cathedral. There will be an opportunity to venerate the relic of St Alban after Evensong.