



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)

31st January 2016 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Helen McChesney R.I.P

It was with great sadness that we received news last Sunday of the death of Sister Helen. Having spent the previous Wednesday evening in pleasant conversation with Sr. Christopher, who had just returned from a trip to France, she was found collapsed in her apartment the following morning, and was brought immediately to the Whittington hospital. Scans revealed she had had a major brain haemorrhage and sadly nothing could be done for her. She quietly entered her heavenly home on Sunday afternoon.

Sr. Christopher has kindly written the following brief biography of Sr. Helen.

Sr. Helen was born and bred in Bailieboro, Co. Cavan, Ireland. She was the eldest of a family of six – four boys and two girls. When she was 19 she entered the noviciate of the Augustinian Sisters of Meaux, at their convent in Hornsey Lane, here in Highgate.

The early years of her religious life were spent working in a retreat house run by the Redemptorists in Liverpool. After being subsequently trained as a nurse, she worked with great devotion in Athlone House, then a care home for geriatric patients on Hampstead Lane.

On her retirement she began working voluntarily in St. Joseph's Parish. As Eucharistic minister she visited the housebound as well as regularly assisting with communion at masses in the Church.

Her concern and care for the poor was seen especially in her unstinting work for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and at the drop-in centre down Holloway Road for the local drop-outs – a place where she was held in high regard by clients and fellow-workers alike.

Many people in this Parish have been encouraged by her smile, and by the interest she took in all their joys and sorrows.

Our world will be the poorer without her, and we pray for her glad welcome in the next.

Those who knew and worked with Sr. Helen will know that she preferred to keep away from publicity, one of the effects of which is that we have been unable as yet to find a more recent photo of her than the above, which was taken back in the days when religious always wore their habits – even to the beach!

We of course pray for the repose of her soul in full confidence that she is now enjoying the reward of a life dedicated to doing the work of the Lord. But we also remember in our prayers in a very special way at this time her companion of latter years, Sr. Christopher, who will greatly miss her. We also extend our most sincere condolences to her family, many of whom will be able to join us for her funeral.

As listed below, Sr. Helen's requiem mass will be taking place on Tuesday, 9th February, here in St. Joseph's, with the burial taking place immediately afterwards in St. Pancras & Islington Cemetery.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - John & Nancy Lennon, Diana Ageba, Bridget Mc Donnell; **we remember those who have died recently** – Sr. Helen McChesney OSA (funeral 12.30pm Tuesday 9th February), George Earley (funeral 10.30am Friday 5th February, Reception 5.00pm Thursday), Christopher Hannington, Mary Bacon, Michael Rock, Eileen Chamberlain; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Noreen Feehily, Pat McKendry, Rose Tiesman Gardiner, Nicole Quaradeghini, Emilia Riezu Labat.



Coffee Morning:

Our Confirmation candidates would like to invite you to a coffee morning and cake sale after the 10.00am Mass next Sunday. They will be fundraising for our usual Lent charities, Fr. Rick's Passionist mission in Haiti, and the Cardinal Hume Centre here in London. All donations welcome (cakes or cash). They will also be selling cakes after the 12.00 and 7.00pm Masses.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,597. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month. We really do appreciate your continuing generosity.

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 14th February 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 "*The Psalms: Prayers for Today's Church*", meeting in the Red Room, 10.30am–12 noon on Tuesdays beginning February 16th.

Pre Marriage Course:

Our next Marriage preparation course will be taking place on Saturday, 6th February. Those who wish to participate should contact Fr. Pat, at pfc44@yahoo.com. For those wishing to get married in the Catholic Church nowadays it is a requirement that they do a pre-marriage course – though not necessarily in their own parish. Calling it "a requirement" – can make it sound like a burden, but it genuinely isn't so. It is focussed on thinking past the wedding day and its preparations, and helping couples to appreciate that they still have a lot to learn, about themselves as well as their partners. Our course here is conducted by a counsellor, a married couple and a priest – so many different perspectives on married life are presented.

100 Club Results:

The January Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 119 and the winners were: £400 Mrs Marie Hogan (187), £100 Margaret Mc Cormack (70), £50 Rosemary Rossi (64). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request. The February draw will be held as usual in the last week of the month, and monthly subscriptions should be paid by Sunday 21st February. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm.

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 14th May 2016 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 2015. 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.

"Vinnie Packs":

The SVP are distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. They would be very grateful if you could sponsor packs at a suggested donation of £3.25 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or go to virginmoneygiving.com and type "SVP" into the charity section. Vinnie Packs is in the **Campaign** drop down box. Thank you so much for your support.

World Youth Day – Krakow 2016:

Westminster Youth Ministry are leading a pilgrimage for youth aged 16 years and over to World Youth Day in 2016, visiting both Lodz for Days in the Diocese and Krakow for World Youth Day. The pilgrimage runs in total from 18th July until 31st July and is priced at £750 – this price being inclusive of all accommodation, travel, WYD fees and food. There is an option for those over 18 to join the pilgrimage for the WYD week only. For more information youth@rcdow.org.uk, <http://dowym.c4om/events/wyd/> or 0207-387-1971.

St. Dominic Barberi?:-

The Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, (previously Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster and frequent visitor to St. Joseph's) has organised a Novena (26 February to 5 March 2016) for a miracle for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi C.P. who received John Henry Newman into the Church in 1845. As a Passionist Parish, I suggest this is something we could support with our prayers.