



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)

18th September 2016 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time My Cultural Education!

I know one wouldn't designate them as educational literature, but much of my childhood information about the lives and customs of England came from those two cornerstones of children's recreational reading of the time – the Beano and the Dandy. It was there that I first encountered such pastimes as hard-boiling eggs and rolling them down hills at Easter time – and coconut shies – and pinning tails on donkeys – and so on. And, since I had rarely ever been in England up to the time I was asked to come to Highgate, I had never actually seen any of these events. Up to this week-end, that is. Today I have seen my first coconut shy, and it was a pig that was having a tail pinned to it rather than a donkey, but I got the general idea. So now I feel steeped in English culture!

All this, and lots more, was taking place across the road in Waterlow Park, whose Friends had organised an extensive program of entertainment to mark the 125th anniversary of the donation of the Park to the public as 'a garden for the gardenless' by Sir Sydney Waterlow. Of course I was particularly there to witness the involvement of our children from St. Joseph's school, who played a very prominent role in presenting the history of the park in dramatic form. So congratulations to all involved in a very successful venture in bringing together so many people from the area.

As I was coming back across the road, and ducked into the church for a quick word with the Lord, I was struck by the weird thought that maybe we should have become more involved in the carnival atmosphere and offered the use of the church as a giant climbing frame! I saw quite a few people over there whom I know would have loved the challenge. But I suppose Health and Safety wouldn't have been too happy! Mind you, that's not any more weird than the thought I had earlier in the week that perhaps we should keep the scaffolding as a permanent feature – so many people have commented on what a magnificent structure it is. (That, after all, is how the Parisians got their Eiffel Tower – it was originally put up as a temporary structure to be a centrepiece for a World Fair marking the centenary of the French Revolution, but it became so iconic of Paris that they decided not to take it down.)

While on the subject of scaffolding, the latest word from the company doing the work is that they expect it to be all down and away by the 9th December – which is good news for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. They hope to have a few sample patches painted early this coming week so that we can make a choice as to what we prefer – I don't know what day exactly they will be able to achieve this, but the decision will have to be made fairly quickly or we risk delaying the work. I will try to remember to put it on the news section on the front of our website, so that people can drop in, and let us know their views.

Oh, nearly forgot the Gospel today. It happens to be about stewardship – a reminder to maybe myself in particular, that this is not my parish, that I'm merely temporarily administering it, and ministering to it. But the message of the Gospel is more universal than just that, and is a reminder to us all of our responsibilities in looking after the goods of this world – spiritual and material. Will we build up, and leave behind us, a world where people – poor and rich alike – will feel respected and treasured? After all, that's our calling as Christians. Our Gospel is just reminding us that we can easily become distracted away from the essentials. We could easily become guilty of looking after the church building, while ignoring the church – people.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Michael Anthony Dannagher (funeral 11.00am Friday 23rd September), Alice Ryan, Anthony Ferns, Vincent Howard; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Desley Deike, James & Margaret O'Driscoll, Tim Buckley, Anne May MacDonogh, Jaqueline Deeley.

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 £1,319. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month. Thanks again for your continuing generosity.

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:

This Thursday Caritas Westminster will be sending a team to visit the Jungle in Calais. They will work with Caritas France and Bro. 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, spices, cooking oils, canned foods e.g. fruit, veg, soups, 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 Burrough's, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. (Please do **not** deliver to the Parish here.)

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.

Lift to Mass:

Lady in Junction Road would like a lift to 12.00 o'clock Mass on Sundays. Please contact Eileen 020 7272 1263 if you can help.

LSU Open Evening:

La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School, Highgate Road, NW5 1RP Will hold an Open Evening for September 2017 secondary transfer applicants on **Thursday 22nd September** 4.00 – 7.00pm. Mrs Williams, Headteacher, will address parents at 4.00, 5.00 and 6.00 pm. See porch noticeboard for full details.