



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)

1st October 2017 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Word in Action

The message of today's Gospel is one of those that, while simple to understand, tends to make us feel a little nervous. We can all readily nod our assent to the message "actions speak louder than words". Maybe we've even quoted it from time to time. Maybe on our good days we've even put it into practice. But I think most of us can acknowledge that we tend to be a little better at quoting the right words, than doing them. Which, rightly, should make us wary when we come to guiding others.

The context in which I write the above is the imminent starting of a new class of first communicants. It marks a major step in the development of these children, particularly with regard to their spiritual development. It's always delightful to see their smiling faces as they head off for their classes, full of enthusiasm and expectation. And those smiles are rightfully matched by their proud parents.

This year we are introducing an innovation to our program, in that part of their classes will be taking place during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10 o'clock mass, and then the latter half of the class will be immediately after the mass. This will hopefully help the children to be able to link what is happening in their classes with what is every week happening in the church. It will also encourage them and their families to develop good habits early on – as they will need to be at mass in good time for the start of their classes.

We are of course also aware that there are many more children at mass on Sunday, and we will be making every effort to have the 10 o'clock mass be more child-friendly. Whenever people ask me, either in the locality or when I'm away, about our parish I am always proud to be able to tell them how blessed we are to have so many young families attending and involved in our parish. That involvement is steadily growing, and is, I believe, helping to fulfil the expectation of Jesus in today's Gospel – that our faith is not simply about the words we say, even at mass, but also about the things we do to bring those words to fulfilment and relevance in our everyday lives.

As we begin a new year of sacramental preparation it is a good time for all of us to maybe examine ourselves on our attitude to the sacraments, and particularly the Eucharist. It's not necessarily easy to always have the right disposition – familiarity can easily breed, if not contempt, at least a degree of indifference. And, in the present context, the worrying thing about that is that it can sow seeds of confusion in our young people. So it is particularly important, especially for the parents of the present candidates, but really for all parents of young children, that they are always positively supporting their children, not just by words but by their attitudes and actions – being sure to have them in church in good time; bringing them to the front part of the church so that they are not blocked off from the altar by the back of the adults ahead of them; that if their attention span is likely to be stretched that whatever is given to them to keep them happy is at least something that is appropriate to being in church.

On behalf of all our Parish I want to take this opportunity to welcome our young people and their parents and families on this exciting journey, and to assure them of the support of our prayers and example. We pray and hope that their participation in this program over the next nine months will prepare them not only for a wonderful celebratory day next year, but for a growing appreciation of the tremendous gift that is the Eucharist, throughout their lives.

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We pray for those who have died recently - Beatrice Bailey; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Ruby Lobo, Arthur Cross, Susan Kerins, Ida Webster, Agnes Murphy, Michael Feehily, Nicholas O'Neil.

First Holy Communion Program:

Today is the **last opportunity** to collect application Forms for our First Holy Communion program. All completed forms, together with Baptism Certificates where required, need to be returned by Wednesday, 4th October, at the latest. The course will be **beginning next Sunday, 8th October**. We remind you once again that this program is 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 the course unless the application form is accompanied by a **baptism certificate**. For children baptised here the date of baptism is sufficient. Preparation for the sacraments is a joint project between the parish and home, and hence involves quite a commitment by families as well as our catechists, who voluntarily give of their time and talents. The children are required to attend mass each Sunday – this year part of the course will be taking place during the 10.00am Mass – and we of course expect their families to support them by good example. Late applications cannot be accepted, so please make sure you return completed forms in good time.

Harvest Sunday:

Next Sunday 8th October is Harvest Sunday. We invite you to bring gifts of food for distribution to the poor of the area (long-dated non-perishable foodstuffs, e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, etc.). It would be particularly nice to involve our children in this venture – perhaps bring them with you to pick out some suitable items for the poor, and bring the gifts up at the offertory procession at the 10.00 mass.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is this Friday, 7th October. We are invited to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, and donate the money saved to the Cafod Harvest collection on Sunday. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope in the porch and give what you can. Envelopes will be collected next weekend.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,186. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

Memorial Mass for Cardinal Cormac:

This is to take place on Wednesday, 4th October, at 5.30pm in Westminster Cathedral. This Mass is especially envisaged for those who were unable to attend the funeral Mass: this is their opportunity to come to the Cathedral to pray for the Cardinal. Representatives of organisations in which the Cardinal took a particular interest, as well as members of the diplomatic community in London, will also be present. Unlike at the funeral Mass, no tickets will be issued and the great majority of seating will be unreserved.

Coffee Morning Next Sunday:

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be next Sunday, 8th October, in the Red Room, immediately after the 10.00 am. Mass. Why not avail of this good opportunity, especially for new Parishioners, to meet fellow members of our Parish? All are welcome to relax for a while in the Red Room and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Pre-Marriage Course:

Our next pre-marriage course will be taking place on Saturday, November 18th. This course is open to all those planning on getting married during 2018 – 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

Adult Religious Education, and RCIA:

The RCIA course –principally intended, but not exclusively so – for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic community, will be starting shortly. The course is free, and takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Fr. Pat immediately at pfc44@yahoo.com.

Parish Bazaar – November 25th:

We don't seem to be properly back into a new year as yet, and already we are beginning the countdown to our Christmas Bazaar – it's only 8 weeks away! We appreciate that people have been very generous over the years in contributing items for the various stalls, and we pray for that to continue. We've had people expressing disappointment that they didn't get to attend because they had already arranged something else for that day. So please put the date in your diary, and if you are able to help out on the actual day, or in the preparations, please contact Cheryl as soon as possible, at felicitymaynard@hotmail.com

100 Club Results:

The September Draw for the 100 Club was held in the Monastery during the week. The number of entries was 109 and the winners were: £400 Tony Gaughan (66), £100 Nick Sharp (166), £50 William Meere (1). A copy of the results may be obtained from the Parish office on request.

School Transfer Open Days:

St. Aloysius College, Wednesday 4 Oct 5:00 pm prompt. Open Mornings Saturday 7 Oct 9:30-11 :00 am, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday 10 -12 October 9:15-10.30am. **La Sainte Union**, Thursday 12th October, 2.00 – 3.30 pm. School tours from 2 – 3.00pm. Head's talk at 3.00pm.