



**Into the immense
sea of God's Love
and Passion....**

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 Oct 18

On 22 November 2020 the Passionist Congregation will kick-off the third centenary celebrations of the foundation of the Congregation. I think it is a precious occasion to reflect on the centrality of our Charism – the Memoria Passionis.

This year, as we celebrate the feast of Paul of the Cross and the third centenary of the Congregation, all of us are grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic. As I write these few lines and, as you read them, many will be struggling to cope with the loss of their loved ones to Covid-19, many will be agonizing over their dear ones who are battling with the effects of corona virus in hospitals, in quarantine centers or at home. Many will be reeling under economic hardships caused by the loss of job, business, etc. and will be struggling to make both ends meet. Many will be careworn with a sense of hopelessness for the future.

What does the Charism of the Passion say to us in this situation?

The genius of St. Paul of the Cross lay in recognizing that all the sufferings of humanity, past, present and future, are implicitly contained in the immense ocean of Christ's Passion. The Passion of Christ for him was also an ocean of God's love. The challenges of 18th century Italy caused by the devastation due to wars, sickness and poverty affected Paul of the Cross deeply. In his mission to the people of his time struggling with those challenges, and in order not to sound hollow, he had to withdraw into solitude to be "where the heart dwells". Because he realized that every "true beginning never starts with an addition but with a subtraction, with a retreat", (Fr. Stanislaus Breton CP). In order to make sense of

what was going on around him he had to spent time swimming, as it were, in the ocean of God's love and Christ's Passion — to contemplate the Crucified love. It was only then that he was able to go out and tell the people of the Tuscan Maremma, reeling under poverty, sickness and hopelessness not to lose hope. He was able to help people to identify with the crucified Jesus who cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He was able to help people find energy and meaning to sustain themselves in their difficult times, for in the measure in which our sufferings are contained in the Passion of Christ, they take on a super-eminent value, which in turn, associate us to the redemptive function.

Consequently, memoria passionis and memoria resurrectionis cannot be separated. There is hope and hope will not fail us. We will come out of these trying times, albeit painfully but more hopefully, strengthened and renewed. Then, we will be able to begin anew with changed perspectives and priorities of life. Our mission as Christians will continue to proclaim the love of God in the Passion of Jesus Christ.

The Passionist Vice Province in India is indeed happy to share with St. Joseph's parish community at Highgate our dear Fr. George Kolothumveetil as its pastor and Fr. Tomy Kanjirathinkal as a member of St. Joseph's Retreat. Your love and support to them and to our Vice Province will be always gratefully remembered. God is good and so are you! May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts!

Fr. Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.
Vice Provincial, India



Staying Covid Safe

Pursuant to Diocesan and Government COVID guidelines, and to allow for 2-metre distancing, St Joseph's can accommodate no more than a maximum of 90 people inside at any time. In order to manage numbers at Mass and to comply with track and trace requirements, St Joseph's provides a simple online pre-booking facility at its Diocesan website. Please ensure that you pre-book and arrive before Mass begins. Our stewards cannot hold places for you and cannot allow more than 90 people inside.

Please also bear in mind that some parishioners cannot pre-book online due to lack of Internet access, but must also be allowed equal access to St Joseph's. To this end, the Parish urges you to vary the Masses you attend. Because the 10:00 am and 12:00 noon Sunday Masses have the highest attendance, you may be denied entry to these Masses if you do not arrive early enough. The Saturday Vigil Mass 7:00 pm, and the Sunday Masses at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm, have plenty of space to date; we urge you to consider attending one of those Masses whenever possible.

GIVE ME A NEW SONG



Have you ever wondered why the psalmist repeatedly invites us today to sing new songs to the Lord?

Our Creative God, the gift of song has long been a cherished means of expression for Your church. Oh, how we cherish the old, familiar songs, the ones we know by heart. They've long given voice to our praise and adoration, our thanksgiving and lamentation, our commitment and confession. Through them, we continue to proclaim the redemption story from one generation to another. For the gift of the old songs that are a beloved part of our faith, we offer our thanks, O God.

We confess that the psalmist's invitation to sing new songs to You makes us uncomfortable. Singing something new requires patience and attentiveness. New melodies may take a direction that feels disconnected to our ears. New rhythms may require steps that feel awkward to our feet. New harmonies may sound dissonant to our ears.

And new words may require language that gets twisted on our tongues. Singing new songs requires a lot of us. We confess we're more comfortable with the old.

But oh, Wise and Clever God, the invitation to sing new songs is an invitation to greater attentiveness so that we may see anew how You are working in our world. Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of attentiveness. Open our eyes wide to the myriad ways You are working toward the coming of Your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. And once our eyes are opened, may we be so inspired by what we see, that we can't help but bring together new melodies, new rhythms, new harmonies, and new languages to compose new songs which will tell Your redemption in new ways to current generations, and generations to come.

Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Boxes of Planned Giving Envelopes

If you have not yet collected your Planned Giving Boxes and would like to have a box, these are available from Fr George. Standing Order and Gift Aid Forms are also available, if you require them.



2020 First Holy Communion

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER
Group A Mass: at 11:00am
Group B Mass: at 12:30pm

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding
as we accommodate our First Holy Communicants and
their families to ensure proper social distancing.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT MASS

[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/
/highgate/events/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/)

A link is also available via the parish website.

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 7PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM, 12 NOON & 7PM

Weekdays 9:30AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10AM - 10:30AM

6:30PM - 6:45PM

Weekdays Immediately
after Mass (On request)

Thank You

We can't exist without the generosity of the people that call Holy Joes home. When you give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love.

Last week's collection amounted to £1070.
Thank you very much.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We'll be talking about...

What do we think we can give to God?
Does it matter if it is something small or big?
When do we give gifts?
How does receiving gifts make us feel?
How do you feel when you give something to someone?



We'll be thinking about...

What can we give to God?

What do people we know do for God?

We'll be praying for...

All of those people who give themselves to God

Guidance on how we can do the right thing



Our Gospel is about...

This week's Gospel tells how the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus by asking him, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Jesus replied, "Why are you testing me?... Show me the coin that pays the census tax." They showed the coin with Caesar's head on it to Jesus who replied, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God".



Lately Dead

+ Jackie Taylor
+ Anthony Nolan
+ Sr. Teresa Ryan
+ Thomas Goldrick
+ Michael Carragher
+ Hugh Gillen
+ Phyllis Joan Gardiner
+ Harriet Fay
+ Thomas Gallaghahar

Anniversaries

Kathleen and Michael Boylan
Tony Reilly
Pasquil Sorda
Denis McGarry
Mary O'Shea

LET'S HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS



Scan this QR code with your
NHS COVID-19 App to check-in



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

DOWNLOAD THE
NHS COVID-19 APP



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