



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)

23rd April 2017 – Second Sunday of Easter

No Doubt About It!

And the week was going so nicely! We were still relaxing after all the excitement of the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Still rejoicing at the wonderful turn-out for the various ceremonies. And gradually many of our parishioners had returned from their various trips away. The children were back at school and there was once again an air of life and innocence and joy around the place. It wouldn't have been too much of an exaggeration to say that there was truly a sense of "The Lord has Risen" about the place. Even nature was showing signs of new life, particularly with so many trees in bloom around the place, and fresh green leaves emerging from their buds. There was lots of sunshine and no rain. Yes, it was Easter and spring, and time to be celebrating new life!

But – and there seems always to be a 'but' – we should have noticed that the temperature wasn't as warm as it might have been. There was a certain chill in the air! And on Tuesday we found out what was really causing it. As Rumpole might have put it – "She-who-must-be-obeyed" had decided that what we needed (like a hole in the head?) was a general election. I have yet to meet someone who thought this was good news that brought them great joy, as the angel Gabriel might have put it! But that's politics, I'm afraid, and if you thought that you suffered during Lent, wait until you see how much we all have to suffer between now and the 8th of June! I'm still not sure in my own mind whether this was a very brave or a very rash move on the part of the government. When you think how recent elections have gone – Brexit here, and Trump in America – it is a very brave/rash person who would try to predict how people are going to react this time. But there are plenty of people willing to try, and other than we're prepared to take a holiday on the moon we're going to have to put with listening to them ad nauseam for the next month and a half. Well, not really – there's an 'off' button on my remote!

Unlike our political pundits, there weren't many brave men or women in the upper room on that famous first Sunday after Easter in Jerusalem. The apostles and other disciples gathered there had basically pressed the 'off' button, and locked the doors against the outside world – a world that they were still very afraid of. But when the Lord suddenly appeared those fears were forgotten in the Joy and Peace that His presence brought. The Lord didn't want this to be simply a special occasion – he wanted it to be the beginning of their mission to bring his Spirit to the rest of the world. He breathes on them and encourages them, and us, to be a forgiving people. And to do that we really do need to cast out fear – fear that our forgiveness will be abused, that it will us appear weak, rather than what it really is – displaying great strength.

But despite the importance of this message, what we tend to remember most from this gospel is poor 'doubting Thomas'! I say 'poor', because he really has been given a raw deal by history. In reality he probably had more faith than most of us will ever have – as he showed by remaining a faithful apostle and reputedly bringing the message of Christ to India. We may earn the right to tut-tut at his questioning of the truth of the resurrection only when we ourselves have shown that it really has made any difference to us. Because that's the basic call of the Resurrection – not that we believe that something happened two thousand years ago, but that we believe strong enough for something to happen in our hearts and lives each new day; allowing His spirit of life to constantly overcome in us the death that is sin.

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We pray for those who have died recently – Fr. Charles Owen CP; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Maisie Murray, Mary Ann Blossom, Anne Gorman, Carmel Temple, Emma Marie Heavey, Tom Doherty.

Fr. Charles Owen R.I.P.:



Just in case you were away over the Holy Week and Easter period we repeat the following notice. Sadly on Saturday evening, 8th April, Fr. Charles was called home to the Lord. In the latter stages of his relatively short period of illness he achieved a great peace of mind and resignation to the Lord's will for him. His passing was very gentle and peaceful. His funeral took place in our Passionist Church in Herne Bay, with a service this past Thursday evening, 20th April, at 6.00 pm. and the funeral mass at 12 noon the following day, with burial immediately afterwards. It was much appreciated by his community and family that so many people from here were able to make one service or the other.

For the benefit of the many people who knew and loved Fr. Charles during his very long service in this Parish – I believe he was stationed here for 23 years – we have organised to have his month's mind mass here in St. Joseph's at 6.30pm on Monday 8th May. The principal celebrant will be Fr. John Kearns C.P., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province of the Passionists.

Those who may wish to send messages of condolence should address them to Fr. Mark C.P., The Retreat, Sea Street, Herne Bay, CT6 8SP.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Nursery Places:

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 they can start in our Nursery Class in September 2017 and we offer FREE full time nursery places 8:55-3:15. Please complete an application which - downloadable from our website (the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) - and if you are applying for a Catholic place, please also complete the priest reference. If this is the case we will also require sight of original Baptismal Certificate and for all applicants the original Birth Certificate which can be dropped in directly to the school office. Forms, Admissions Policy and criteria for offering places at the school, are available to download on the website. <http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/admissions-2017-2018/>

Parish Stewardship Drive:

A most sincere thank you to you all who participated in our recent Parish Stewardship Drive. It is too early yet to realistically assess its effectiveness, but the early indications are very positive. We thank all those who have put their names forward to volunteer in the various ministries of the parish – we will be contacting you in the near future. A special thanks to all those who have already taken the trouble to set up standing orders for your donations, or who have updated them to increase their donations. As soon as we can after Easter we will bring you up-to-date information.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection – which was the annual Easter collection for the support of the Passionist community – amounted to £3,300. Thank you very much for your wonderful generosity. In addition we have also been receiving approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month – but this has greatly increased this month.

Planned Giving Boxes:

We are now into a new tax year, so the planned-giving boxes for 2017-2018 come into operation. If you haven't already done so – possibly you were away over the pre-Easter period – we invite you to collect your new boxes of envelopes as soon as possible.

Prayer Groups:

The Christian Meditation Group will resume meetings at 8.00pm this Friday 28th April. The Charismatic Prayer Group will resume meetings 7.30 pm Tuesday 25th April.

Permanent Diaconate:

Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a meeting at Ealing Abbey Parish Centre, Charlbury Grove, W5 2DY on Saturday 29th April from 10am to noon. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Saturday 3rd June 2017 at 3pm.

This annual event will be taking place in Westminster Cathedral. 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 2017. 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.