



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)

4th June 2017 – Feast of Pentecost THAT'S PUSHING IT!

I was watching a programme on the television the other evening that featured a priest working in a poor area in I don't know what part of England – I don't always give 100% attention to what's going on, even when my eyes are open! The priest was being presented fairly sympathetically, rather than the caricature that we often see. He clearly had something troubling him from his past, as the story was frequently punctuated by his flash-backs. The episode I saw was, I believe, the first of five or six, and knowing my usual form I probably won't see many, if any, of them. I don't personally have such flash-backs, but a bit of nostalgia now and again has been known to occur. And the feast we're celebrating this week reminds me of a particular one I had in Paris.

We normally celebrated Confirmations there on Pentecost Sunday, and because we had no English-speaking Bishop we generally invited one from either England, Ireland or the States. This particular year we were expecting the then Bishop of Liverpool, and I was getting ready to pick him up from the airport. I needed some petrol in the car, as I didn't want to risk running out of petrol and having to ask a bishop to get out of the car and help give me a push! I usually went to the petrol station that was under a street nearby, and I was just turning to head down the ramp, when I spotted a motor cyclist coming up against me. To anyone driving in Paris, that in itself wouldn't raise even an eyebrow – pavements, pedestrian crossings, one-way streets, are all fair game to many of them.

The difference with this guy was that he wasn't on his bike, but was attempting, rather unsuccessfully, to push his bike up a pretty steep slope. The fact that it was a scorching hot day, and he was dressed for the North Pole, wasn't helping his cause any. His mood didn't seem to be helped by the fact that at the top of the ramp there was a pretty young lady astride her own bike, who, while offering lots of verbal advice, clearly had no intention of helping in any practical way. While I was taking all this in, maybe 5 seconds, a whole line of vehicles had assembled behind me, and were already beginning to impede the junction on the main avenue. The infamous horns were already giving a few speculative toots!

Despite my remarks above, I do have some appreciation of the world of the motorcyclist, having myself used one for a considerable number of years, and I do remember they're not fun to have to push on level ground, not to mind up a slope. There was only one thing for it! Out of the car, down the slope, behind the bike, and heave! At first I think the guy thought I was going to attack him, but once he realised I was relatively harmless, (he probably sensed I was a naturally peace-loving Irishman!), he steered and I pushed, and ten seconds later, problem solved, call off the horns, traffic moving again!

I'm not pretending to be a saint – I know I wasn't really helping the motor-cyclist, I was actually helping myself! I needed petrol, and that was the only way I was going to get it within a reasonable time-span! And isn't that the way very often with our 'kind deeds' - they can be self-interest disguised as concern for others? But when Christ shows concern for us, it is totally our best interests that are involved. When He promised to send the Holy Spirit it was so that we wouldn't be left on our own. He wanted to 'breathe new life' into us – His life.

I can't imagine the guy on the ramp saying to me 'buzz off, I want to do this on my own'! Today we're reminded that neither do we have to do life on our own – the Spirit is on hand at all times. It's in our truly best interests to let him help! Anything else might be, as they say, 'pushing it'.

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We pray for those who have died recently - Morris Kennedy (funeral 2.30pm Friday 9th June), Bridget Mian, Brian McClune, Nellie McQuaide; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Eddie Nolan & Ellen Ryan, Rosario Gallo, Noel McCormack, John Woodcock, Bernie Martin.

Shared International Lunch:

To celebrate Pentecost, the Catholic Church's birthday, our Parish is organising a Shared International Lunch this Sunday 4th June 2017 at 1pm in the Red Room – and, weather permitting, spilling out to the lawn at the back of the monastery. This is a new venture for our parish, designed to encourage people to get to know, and mix with, particularly the many new people who are constantly joining our parish. All parishioners, long-standing or newly arrived, young or old, are invited to come along and, if possible, contribute a traditional dish from your country and/or some drinks (but not in large quantities). Please note that you will only be able to warm up, not cook the food here.

Eucharistic Ministers:

At all our masses this week-end we will be having a brief ceremony of installation for our Eucharistic Ministers – new and old. While we thank them for their generosity in serving the Parish in this essential way, we also want to assure them of our prayers and support at all times. People sometimes ask why do we only have Communion under one species at three of our week-end masses, and both species at 10 and 12. The answer is simply that we do not have enough Ministers. As it is we struggle at times to even provide sufficient Ministers for the present set-up. So can we please ask you again to consider volunteering your services for this wonderful ministry? You will be given all the training, support and help that you need, and you'll be providing an essential service to our parish. (DBS checks are not required when this ministry is exercised solely at Mass.)

Extension of Nursery Spaces at St Joseph's School:

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st DECEMBER 2014 (i.e. they turn 3 before 31st December 2017) they can start in our Nursery Class in the Autumn Term 2017 and we offer full time nursery places 8:55-3:15. Please feel free to complete an application which can be downloaded from the school website (the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) or is available at the back of the church or the School Office. Please hand the forms to the school office after half term on Tuesday 6th June.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,401. In addition we receive an average of over £800 per week in standing orders. We are most grateful for your outstanding generosity.

Confirmation Photos:

Photos are now on the photographer's website and are truly beautiful. There is a 10% discount code which is valid until May 27 which is STJO10. If you don't have the website address please contact Cheryl (felicitymaynard@hotmail.com). We ask everyone to try and buy at least a couple of pictures to support the photographer so he will come back again next year.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 22nd & 29th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 5th August), near Colchester in Essex. Run with a Catholic ethos, these sports and activity based camps are especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. See porch noticeboard or visit www.svpboscocamp.org.uk for details. Phone Eileen 020 7272 1263 if interested.

"Called to Serve the Sick Roadshows":

Three evening meetings have been arranged to allow clergy and laity an opportunity to discover and question... *What hospital chaplains do:* at St Dominic's Priory Haverstock Hill, Wed. 7th June, 7pm; *How Catholics can realise their unique vocation of being of service the sick:* at Our Lady and St Michael's, Garston, Watford, Mon. 19th June 7pm for 7.30pm; *How to think theologically about health:* at St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, Tues. 27th June, 7pm. For registration please email Fr Peter Scott: peterscott@rcdow.org.uk

Spirit in the City Festival:

The annual Catholic festival takes place in Leicester Square Gardens next week-end, on 9th and 10th June, with world-class music, inspiring talks, uplifting performances, family activities, and dancing crowds. Spirit in the City festival has something for all tastes and every age. Each area in the Gardens has its own character and vibe to enjoy with friends and family. All, young and old, are most welcome to join in the celebrations. More information can be obtained at www.spiritinthecity.org.

The Art of Dying Well – New Website:

This is the name of a new website, not in any way morbid, and produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying – either one's own, or that of someone close. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the final journey. Expert advice has been sought from professionals in palliative care, ethics, chaplaincy, history and media. Please take a look at the website: www.artofdyingwell.org.