



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)

15th May 2016 – Pentecost Sunday FIRE AHEAD? NO!

It's been a while since I have given any kind of update on the ongoing works in our church and monastery. As I mentioned before, the planned roof-works have all been completed, and to date it appears to be successful – no more need for umbrellas indoors on wet days. Well, almost. We do still have one problem to be sorted – it emerged during the earlier works, but it was hoped that it might not need urgent attention for a few more years. Unfortunately the valley between the Lady Chapel and the main Church needs to be completely resurfaced. It's a relatively small job, and as it's at low level will not require scaffolding. A price for the job has been agreed, and I hope it will be completed shortly. In the meantime the next phase, painting the plain walls in the main body of the church (as distinct from the ornate ceiling, and the sanctuary area) has gone out to tender, and hopefully a contract will be agreed by the end of the month, and work begin as soon as possible after that. As this was considered to be 'normal' maintenance it is not grant-aidable – hence we can proceed so soon. With regard to the rest of the painting and restoration, and installation of a new lighting system, we expect this get grants towards the cost, but the down-side is that the process delays the work for anything up to a year and a half! But the application is being prepared, and I will try to keep the process moving as quickly as possible.

That's the stuff you see – but at another level there have also been considerable happenings. Because we have a building much used by the public, our insurers are very insistent – rightly so – that it is safe for people attending. Every year or two there's a thorough testing of fire alarms and extinguishers, and every plug and socket on the premises. But there's also a five-yearly examination of the all electrical installations and devices – fuse boards, wiring etc. – to make sure the basics are in order. By and large the fundamentals were in order, with a certain amount of remedial work being required, which is being organised at present. But while all this was going on I couldn't help but be struck by the timing – which was not initiated by us, but by the insurance company. Why did the timing strike me – because it was immediately before our young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation a couple of weeks ago. Had the insurance got word that the Holy Spirit was going to do a repeat of the first Pentecost, and come down in the form of tongues of fire? Would we be covered, or would they use the usual opt-out – it's an Act of God?? Thankfully this didn't happen, and all went home with head and hair intact!

Today we all celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, and our readings present us with those two great images of the Spirit – wind and fire. The wind – sometimes a mighty force filling the house, more often the gentle breath 'inspiring' new life. The fire – filling hearts with love and a burning desire to spread that love in our world. We are encouraged today to think of our own baptism and confirmation, and whether that initial breath of the Spirit is still filling our lives with a burning desire to make this world, this country, this parish, this home, this heart, a better place. Keeping the roof intact, making the walls look fresh and bright, are only meaningful if what goes on beneath and between them is truly helping us all live more fully that Spirit of Love that is offered to all. Anything less would be shocking! (Apologies.)

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish, especially - Isabel Gomez-Nino, David Evans; **we pray for those who have died recently** – Mary Hynes (funeral 10.30am Thursday 19th May), Carmel Anne Temple, Jim Toomey, Mary & Jimmy Kelly; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Dr Gertrude (Duda) Collie, Mary Douglas, Yvonne Emery, Joaquim Lobo, John McIntyre, Antonio Oliveira, Thomas & Matty Ryan.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,454. In addition we also receive over £1900 in standing orders each month.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

If you are over 18, your help would be very much appreciated as a St Frai Helper. Sick pilgrims in most need of support and medical care stay in a hospital-like building called the Accueil St Frai in the centre of Lourdes. It is well-equipped for their care and they are looked after by a team of doctors, nurses and volunteer St Frai Helpers. The role of a St Frai helper is to support the nurses and provide the sort of care for which you don't need a medical qualification. This includes helping the pilgrims get up and ready in the morning; making large amounts of tea; taking the pilgrims to various pilgrimage events; shopping and socialising with them and other helpers; and putting them to bed at night. The timetable is shared across two shifts so there is enough time to rest, make your own pilgrimage, spend time with your groups and make new friends.

Helping in the St Frai is an extremely moving and rewarding experience. Working in the St Frai is an opportunity to give our care and company to our pilgrims and make a huge difference in their lives. If you're interested in helping in the St Frai in Lourdes, please email chief helpers Nick Leonard or Laura Simmonds at nickleonard507@gmail.com or laurasimmonds@ymail.com.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

This year, to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese have organised a pilgrimage to Walsingham on the 9th of July. As there is a limit on the number of coaches the place can cater for, it has been agreed that St. Gabriel's Parish, Archway, and ourselves will just have the one coach between us. The coach will depart from St. Gabriel's church premises at 7am to arrive at Walsingham at 10am. The cost is £18.00. For further information please contact St. Gabriel's Parish office on 02072728195 or Mary Aherne -02072639217.

Evening of Adoration:

You are invited by the Prayer Group to an Evening of Adoration and Intercession - Come and join in intercessions for our children, our families and others. The Lady Chapel - 7.30 pm Tuesday 24th May.

Organ Recital:

The next in our 2016 season of organ recitals will be Thursday 26th May, to be given by London based organist Richard Moore. Admission is free, but all donations towards the repair and maintenance of the organ will be appreciated. Details of further recitals in the series are on the porch noticeboard.

Can you help prisoners & their families?

You are invited to come & see the opportunities for you to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoner's families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust) works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need. Saturday 11th June Drop in any time between 9.30am – 1.00pm St George's Cathedral (Southwark), Amigo Hall. For more information contact Tom: Thomas.Brindle@prisonadvice.org.uk or call 0203 031 6869

Volunteer at SPEC:

SPEC is part of Westminster Youth Ministry. Each year a number of young adults (aged 18-25) join the resident community for a year as volunteer missionaries. They help the community in its primary mission of retreat ministry for children and young people in the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Westminster. Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity for you - or someone you know - to combine a year of service with a year of formation in faith in a supportive Catholic community. More details are available at: <http://dowym.com/spec/> ; e-mail: spec@rcdow.org.uk , Phone: 020 3757 2500.

Free safeguarding training:

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) has worked with Educare to provide an online, interactive E-Learning safeguarding course which is now available to all in the Catholic Church. If you have a role (voluntary or paid) working with children/adults at risk or have an interest in safeguarding, the online training is a great opportunity to learn how to better protect children/ adults at risk in your care and community. Some of the modules available include: Child Exploitation & Online Safety and Adult Safeguarding. To register please email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk with your following details: parish/order/congregation, and your role e.g. parent, catechist leader. For more information please ask for a brochure from our safeguarding rep – Lorraine Redmond – or from the Parish office.

Half-term Holiday Camp:

Premier Sport will again be running a holiday camp for 4 – 12 year olds at St Joseph's Primary School during half term. Tuesday 31st May until Friday 3rd June. Half Day, £12.95 : 9.00am – 12.30pm; Regular Day, £19.95 : 9.00am – 3.30pm; Extended Day, £24.95 : 8.30am – 4.30pm. For further information or to book online please visit www.premiersport.org.