



# ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE PARISH BULLETIN

St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE  
Tel. 020 7272 2320

e-mail: joseph.highgate@gmail.com website: www.stjosephshighgate.org.uk

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)

## 26th November 2017 – Feast of Christ the King Our Heavenly Bazaar!

I had a serious complaint from Santa Claus today. It went along the lines that when he agreed that he would turn up for the Parish Bazaar he had expected that we would look after the environmental issues – like making sure that there was lots of snow on the ground, so that his reindeer could make a soft landing, and that the sky would be nice and dark, as he's not used to operating in bright light. Of course we apologised for the misunderstanding, and once we had explained why we had arranged to have a beautiful sunny day – so that young and old alike could travel safely on the day – he fully appreciated that he would have been disappointed if all his young friends hadn't been able to get there safely to meet him.

Which is really a roundabout way of acknowledging what a wonderful success the Parish Bazaar has been. I couldn't stay there all the day, but dropped in at the start, the middle and the end, and it was really wonderful to see the magnificent turn-out. And, even more importantly, to see people having the time to get to know their fellow-parishioners. This year there was quite a lot of renovation and re-organisation of the stalls, and without doubt the quality of the goods on offer was of a very high standard. And someone must have done very well at the tombola, because I personally removed in the region of forty non-winning tickets – not deliberately, I might add, but because I couldn't pick a winning number if there was only one loser in ten!

It's hard to believe that the Christmas Bazaar has already come and gone! Once again there was a wonderful atmosphere in the Hall, and many people took the opportunity to venture out and enjoy the company of other parishioners, have a bite to eat, hunt for some bargain buys, have a go at winning some bottles of central heating, enjoy the entertainment and all the while contributing to the funds of the Parish. It was wonderful to see so many people turn up, and while fund-raising is an important part of the day, I think the social event is probably even more valuable. People of all ages seemed to be enjoying themselves - which isn't always that easy to do when people are asking you to spend your money!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who put so much hard work into making it possible for the day to happen; the many who so generously gave of their time on the day itself to staff the various stalls; the many who stayed behind to make sure everything was tidied up and put away. And of course it's important to acknowledge the many who took time out and turned up on the day itself and contributed not just financially, but in creating such a lively and happy atmosphere. And of course none of this could have happened without the generosity of so many people in contributing items for the various stalls, the tombola and the raffle.

Special thanks are due to Cheryl and Roxane who put so much work into organising the event - without their supreme effort and generosity with their time, none of the above would have happened.

Our Feast today is that of Christ the King. His kingship is one of love and peace, a kingdom of service to one another, as our gospel reminds us. I don't think it's too fanciful to regard the effort that went into making the bazaar such a special event as being part of what the Lord asks of us in building up His Kingdom here in Highgate. Where that spirit of joy and togetherness flourishes, there also will the Kingdom of heaven flourish.

-----00000OOO00000-----

**We pray for the sick and housebound of our parish - Clive Nero; we pray for those who have died recently - Eileen Hickey (funeral 10.30am Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December), Anthony Mayers (funeral 12 noon Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, reception 7.15pm Thursday), Mary Healy, Nellie Lavelle, Catherine McDonnell, Patrick (Paddy) Allen; and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Fr. Aidan Baker CP, Kathleen (Kathy) O'Brien, Anthony & Joe McNulty, Barbara Mayers, Charlie & Marie Carson.**

### **Church Cleaning Fest:**

Following the success (socially as well as practically) of our previous Cleaning Parties there will be another church cleaning session this coming Saturday, 2nd December from 11.am to 2.00pm. If you are free for any part of that time and would like to help the parish in a practical way, please sign up on the volunteering list that will be in the porch or email [roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com](mailto:roxane.stirling@btopenworld.com) We don't normally have these parties on Saturdays, but we've had a torrent of complaints from people who miss out on Roxane's delicious cakes!

### **Coffee Morning Next Sunday:**

Our next Parish Coffee Morning will be next Sunday, 3rd December, 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.

### **Youth Group:**

Thanks to the initiative and enthusiasm of last year's Confirmation group, and the support given them by Emma and Eve in particular, a new Youth Group, open to all between the ages of 13-17, has been getting off the ground. Their next get-together will be on Friday, the 8th of December, with food and a Christmas theme! The event will take place in the Red Room from 7pm till 9pm. If you wish to come, please use the entrance on Highgate Hill.

### **Christian Stewardship:**

Last week's collection amounted to £1,526. In addition we receive an average of over £900 per week in standing orders. Thanks once again for your continuing generosity.

### **100 Club:**

The November draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members have not yet handed in their subscriptions please do so as soon as possible. Thank you once again to all who support the parish in this way.

### **Diary Updates - Christmas Events:**

We have our other usual Christmas events approaching very rapidly, so make sure you note them in your diary. The **Living Crib** will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm, - any stray angels, shepherds or wise men (or even wise women!) always welcome! And our evening of **Christmas Readings and Carols** will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

### **Some Technical Issues – Help Appreciated:**

Apologies for the issues with sound in the church that we have been having lately. We have had a technician out and things seem to be better. We are also having problems with our security cameras. If we have any parishioner with expertise in either/both of these areas their guidance and advice would be greatly appreciated.

### **Christmas at the Repository:**

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, and 2018 Calendars and St. Joseph's Parish Diaries are all now available at the Repository shop at the back of church, as well as the usual range of cards, books and devotional items, and the weekly Catholic papers.

### **Support For Catholic Education:**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

### **In case you are admitted to hospital.....**

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) We remind you of the difficulties that sometimes people have in contacting hospital chaplains. Data protection regulations mean that your details will not be passed on to the Catholic chaplain, **unless you specifically ask the staff to do so.** You should also state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many hospitals – including the Whittington - have full-time chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients as needed. Should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please call upon myself or another of the priests here. All we ask is that, if possible, you let the patient concerned know that you've asked us to call. It can be a little frightening for some sick people, especially of the older generations, if suddenly a priest turns up at their sick-bed!