



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)

24th July 2016 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

More Power To You!

A few weeks ago, during my 'not feeling the best' phase, I was waiting at the bus-stop outside Archway station. There was quite a gathering building up, so I surmised that it had been some time since a bus had been. And now that they have removed the notice-board listing the expected times of arrival of the buses, there was no way of knowing when the next one was due. Not that I was in a hurry or anything. But to my surprise, in more ways than one, just as I had resigned myself to a bit of a wait, what should appear but a single-decker bus, with 210 listed in front, coming around the corner from Junction Road. Those of you who regularly use the buses will know that the 210 route doesn't do single-decker buses, and it doesn't do Junction Road. So it got my attention!

It got even more of my attention when it pulled in to the bus stop, as I realised this was not your everyday common or garden bus. For starters it was only about two thirds of the length of the usual bus, and had an open doorway at the front. And it was almost groaning as it moved along. I wasn't sure if one was meant to board or not, or whether this was part of some carnival or other. Someone ahead of me in the queue asked the conductor – yes it had one of those – and obviously got the go-ahead, so I followed suit. As I was boarding I heard the conductor say to the person in front that it was a free ride – I felt a little cheated as I was going to use my freedom pass anyway! There were already a goodly number of people on board – mostly of my own vintage – and I noticed many of them were wearing badges. I felt a little like an interloper in some kind of 'back-to-the-future' day out, but there was no way I could gracefully back out, so I dutifully took my place on what was essentially a bench going along the side of the bus.

And off we went! I quickly realised that I wasn't going to exactly save time on this trip. It initially accelerated up to the equivalent of a gentle jog, and as it got to the hill, it gradually slowed down until I began to think of my father's description of the Dingle railway of yore – "First class – sit in and wait; second class – get out and walk; - third class – get out and push!" It didn't quite get to that stage, but as it eventually got as far as the door of the monastery there were very serious doubts as to whether it would make it to the next stop. The conductor explained that they didn't really want to stop for the lights, as it might never get started again, so it was really crawling in the hope that the lights would change soon. So I decided to be a little cheeky, and asked her if she would mind if I stepped off, as I was just passing my door. No problem – and I duly did – and it made my day! I hadn't 'jumped' on or off a moving bus since my childhood, when it was the normal practice for catching and leaving the bus through the open door at the back; it shouldn't have been, but it was.

I don't know why the gospel today put that little episode in mind. Perhaps it was the bit about knocking and the door shall be opened unto you reminded me of the unexpected open door on the bus. Or maybe the lack of power in the bus's engine reminded me that very often we don't appreciate the power of prayer, and that many of the apparent uphill struggles we have in life could be greatly alleviated if we made use of this wonderful source of strength. It's truly "more power to you!" I don't know, but I've often wondered since if the bus actually got to the top of the hill! You haven't seen it around, have you?

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We pray for those who have died recently – Patrick & Liam Delaney (funerals 11.00am Thursday 28th July), Helen (Ena) Duffley; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Mary Traynor, Sean McCann, Michael Corish, Jane Bank.

Summer Break:

As you will see from the preponderance of repeat notices below we are struggling to keep the Bulletin going now that so many people are away and so little is happening. So we may as well face up to the reality and send the Bulletin on holiday as well! In other words, this will be last bulletin until the end of August. (I was going to add that you would now have to find something else to read during mass – but that would be too cheeky – and I'm really only joking, I think.)

Prayer Groups:

The **Christian Meditation Group** will not meet during August. Meetings resume on Friday 2nd September at 8.00pm. New members welcome on that date.

The **Charismatic Prayer Group** will not be meeting during the summer break - from Tuesday 19th July. Meetings resume 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 13th September 2016. God bless.

100 Club:

The July draw for the 100 Club will take place during the week. Would any members who 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.

Christian Stewardship:

Last week's collection amounted to £1,513. In addition we also receive approximately £1,900 in standing orders each month.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine:

This pilgrimage to Knock shrine in the west of Ireland, is being organised directly by Go Trouvaille, and will be from 3rd – 8th October 2016, leaving from Stansted. £599 per person sharing. Price includes return airport transfer from parish, flights with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, luxury transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, situated in the Shrine grounds, beside the newly refurbished Basilica, with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, heritage excursions and guided tours in Co. Mayo included. Full assistance from your Go Trouvaille representative. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms available at a supplement of £60. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia anytime for all dates and availability on 01702 561757 - Mobile 07715 667 896 or email patricia@gotrouvaille.com. Go Trouvaille is an agent of Travel Assistance International – ATOL 4634.

Children's Summer Camps:

Bookings are being taken for the SVP John Bosco camps for boys (ages 8-13, weeks beginning 23rd & 30th July) and girls (ages 9-12, week beginning 6th 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.

Updates:

It's been a little while since I've given an update on the works in the church, and the Growing in Faith Fund. Hopefully the roof work has now been totally completed, and we appear to be waterproof at last! A tender for the painting of the walls is almost ready for agreement, and there is every possibility that the work will begin in September, if not before. With regard to Growing in Faith, the total donated to date is just short of £79,200, which is just more than a third to the total amount pledged, £213,806. But those figures will be substantially increased as they are mostly gift-aided. Thanks to you all for your continuing generosity and patience.

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

(We feel we need to repeat this notice every so often.) The Hospital Chaplaincy department in the Diocese, ask us to bring to your attention the difficulties that sometimes people have in making contact with the chaplains in the various hospitals. 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**. Also you are advised to state that you would like the Catholic chaplain to visit you. Many of the hospitals – the Whittington being one of them - have dedicated chaplains, whose special ministry is being there for the patients when they need them. However, should you have difficulty contacting the chaplain, then please do not hesitate to 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!