

# YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 DEC

Marking the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

In a Dec. 8 apostolic letter, “Patris Corde” (“With a father’s heart”), the pope said Christians can discover in St. Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

“St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all,” he said.

As Mary’s husband and guardian of the son of God, St. Joseph turned “his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home.”

Despite being troubled at first by Mary’s pregnancy, he added, St. Joseph was obedient to God’s will “regardless of the hardship involved.”

“In every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat,’ like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane,” the pope said. “All this makes it clear that St.

Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood and that, in this way, he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation.”

St. Joseph’s unconditional acceptance of Mary and his decision to protect her “good name, her dignity and her life” also serves as an example for men today, the pope added.

“Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence toward women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man,” he wrote.

Pope Francis also highlighted St. Joseph’s “creative courage,” not only in finding a stable and making it a “welcoming home for the son of God (who came) into the world,” but also in protecting Christ from the threat posed by King Herod.

“The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today, too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider St. Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty,” the pope said.

As a carpenter who earned “an honest living to provide for his family,” Christ’s earthly guardian is also an example for both workers and those seeking employment and the right to a life of dignity for themselves and their families.

“In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which St. Joseph is an exemplary patron,” he said.

The Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican tribunal that deals with matters of conscience, also issued a decree Dec. 8 stating that plenary indulgences will be granted to Catholics not only through prayer and penance, but also through acts of justice, charity and piety dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, receiving sacramental confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion as soon as possible and praying for the Holy Father’s intentions.

However, the decree also highlighted several ways to obtain the indulgence throughout

the year, including to those who “meditate on the prayer of the ‘Our Father’ for at least 30 minutes or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.”

As a “just man,” the document continued, who guarded “the intimate secret that lies at the bottom of the heart and soul,” St. Joseph practiced the virtue of justice in “full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy.”

“Therefore, those who, following the example of St. Joseph, will perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will also be able to obtain the gift of the plenary indulgence,” it said.

Indulgences will also be granted to families and engaged couples who recite the rosary together and thus imitate the “same climate of communion, love and prayer lived in the Holy Family.”

Other acts of devotion include entrusting one’s daily activities and prayers for dignified employment to St. Joseph, reciting the litany or any “legitimately approved” prayer to St. Joseph.

During this time of pandemic, the Apostolic Penitentiary also decreed that special indulgences will be granted to the elderly,

the sick and all those who “for legitimate reasons are prevented from leaving their home” by “reciting an act of piety in honour of St. Joseph and committed to fulfilling the conditions as soon as possible.”

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

-America



# Living Crib

## Bringing Nativity Story to Life

Bayleaf the donkey will be in **Pond Square on Sunday 13 December at 2.30 pm.** Any angels, shepherds or wise men & women are welcome to say hello to him, whether they have a costume or not & join in some Socially Distanced Christmas Carols!



# GIVING TREE

PASSION LED US HERE

Dear Holy Joes,

Because you're so awesome, many of you have reached out asking "What about the Giving Trees this year?"

Here is the answer!

Christmas food donations instead of Giving Tree: Next weekend at all masses!

Food pantries are in desperate need of help. Donate food items to help us provide for our community.

This year, the Cardinal Hume Centre will not be distributing donated gifts. As we are all aware, the pandemic has meant that the amount of people reliant on food bank donations to feed themselves and their families has risen dramatically. For this reason, we have few drop offs: Highgate Newtown Community Centre food bank and Ringcross Community Centre foodbank in Holloway.



Collections will be made outside the church at all Sunday masses next weekend (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December), including the Saturday vigil mass.

## **Outreach Needs**

- Cooking Oil
- Breakfast Cereals
- Porridge Oats
- Washing Powder and capsules
- Tinned foods
- Pasta Sauce
- Granola Bars
- Jam
- Toiletries (shampoo / conditioner / toothpaste / toothbrushes / shower gel / soap)
- Rice •  
Pasta
- Baked beans
- Tea • Coffee
- Sugar
- Hand - Sanitizer
- Wipes.

Please give whatever you can – every donation is a huge help. Your financial gifts always help us do work in our community as well.

Thank you!

**Chiara and Noreen, Holyjoescare**

# Christmas Masses



We are now preparing for our Christmas Masses. To enable maximum attendance in compliance with applicable COVID-19 guidelines, the Parish will offer additional Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Bookings for these Masses are now open on the Parish's Diocesan website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/>. Attendance at all Masses remains capped at 90 persons, so please pre-book now for Christmas!

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY



**We'll be thinking about**

Who was John the Baptist?  
What was his relationship to Jesus?  
What is Baptism?  
Why do we Baptise people in church?



**We'll be talking about...**

The third Sunday of Advent, the colours in the church and the birth of Jesus  
How do we think the people felt to know Jesus was coming?



**We'll be praying for...**

All of those people who are wrongly imprisoned in the world and that they may find justice



**Our Gospel is about...**

Today's Gospel is about John the Baptist. He was a messenger sent from God. He was put in prison for his faith. John told them that he baptised with water and that there was another coming after him and that would be Jesus.



# Come as You are!

Dear Parents,

We invite all our children to dress up at home as a Nativity character and send a photo of our little Marys, Josephs, Baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, kings, stars, donkeys, camels, innkeepers, sheep... etc. To the following email: [littlejoes@stjosephshighgate.org.uk](mailto:littlejoes@stjosephshighgate.org.uk)

We will be uploading the photos to the parish website and the best ones may even end up on the Christmas edition of the parish bulletin! This is your child's opportunity to be the character they want. You could even dress up as a family group! Adults are warmly welcomed to join in if they wish!

We look forward to seeing the Christmas story come to life!

*Please send all photos by 20th December 2020.*

# Gloria at Holy Joe

Saturday 19 December, 5PM

It's gonna be a different Carol service because we will sing outside, in the garden behind the Red Room, and we will arrange chairs so people can sit. We will have some pieces only by choir and some congregational traditional carols to sing all together.

# Christmas with Nuestra Singers

Sunday 20 December 3PM

North London's most exciting new choir Nuestra Singers are delighted to welcome you to an exclusive performance live from St. Joseph's. With beautiful carols, both a cappella and accompanied by the organ, hear live Christmas music in a safe, socially distanced venue. Hear from the Singers who will take you through their favourite carols, and escape into music of hope and joy. The programme includes seasonal favourites, from "Ding Dong Merrily on High" to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", and lesser known carols from Richard Rodney Bennett, Peter Warlock and more.

*Everyone is required to follow Covid Protocols.*



*Perpetual Light*

**Angela Lamell**

**Bernadette O' Donoghue**

**Alan and Bill Slow**

**Raymond Hogan**

*Eternal Rest*

**Dyalan Hegarty**

**Umberto Bellometti**

**Michael Casey**

**John McDonnel**

**Jane Brady**

**Caroline Payne**

# BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT MASS

[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk  
/highgate/events/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/)

A link is also available via the parish website.

## Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 7PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM, 12 NOON & 7PM

Weekdays 9:30AM

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10AM - 10:30AM

6:30PM - 6:45PM

Weekdays Immediately  
after Mass (On request)



We can't exist without the generosity of the people that call Holy Joes home. When we give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love. Last week's collection amounted to £1615. Thank you very much.



# ***Squeak from a Little Mouse!***

When everyone's gone home and all is quiet, the busy little church mice come out to play. First, they noticed a big tree arrive. Soon it was dressed in shining stars and coloured baubles. Then another tree, so tall and bare, waited for its own sparkling touches. Oh dear! the mice thought, what we need is for people who enjoy recycling to bring us their unwanted decorations. Then we'd soon make our second tree as pretty as the first. Let's ask our friends in Holy Joe's, yes, please help. If you can, the secret helpers would love it if you bring them something to make the trees shine and sparkle for Christmas! We can all work together to make our church look grand, thank you for donations! Squeak from a little mouse too?



# LET'S HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS



Scan this QR code with your  
NHS COVID-19 App to check-in



**ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE**

**DOWNLOAD THE  
NHS COVID-19 APP**



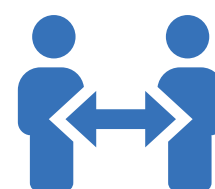
**SANITISE  
HANDS**



**STAY HOME  
WHEN SICK**



**WEAR A  
MASK**



**STAY 1-METRE  
APART**



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