

reflect on in the coming weeks. The others are Isaiah, the great foreteller of Jesus from the Hebrew scriptures, and Our Lady whose journey of faith at this time of year perfectly encapsulates the true meaning of Advent.

Mary was the one who had to wait for the birth of her son. It could not be rushed. It had to happen in God's time. We all sometimes have to wait for the right time for things to happen. Mary shows us, by her example, that she was prepared to wait, unsure of what plans God may have had in store for her. But nonetheless she trusted in divine providence that all would be well and that God would give her grace for the challenges to come.

I was queuing in a shopping centre on Saturday and there was a young boy and his parents ahead of me in the queue. He ran forward with a board game but his parents told him to wait as he would be getting plenty of similar items at Christmas. In a world where we have lost the sense of anticipation, Advent invites us to pause, to take a breath as it were and perhaps to stand back from the craziness of getting ready for Christmas for a short while.

As our Second Reading from Letter to St James reminds us: *"Now be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart."*

Perhaps that could be a challenge for us all in the week ahead: to take a small amount of "time out" to appreciate and enjoy this very special time of the year-whether it's a walk at our nearby coastline or in the National Botanic Gardens or perhaps a few minutes of quiet time in a convenient church or oratory.

Speaking towards the beginning of his pontificate back in September 2013, Pope Francis said: *"There is no prayer in which Jesus does not inspire us to do something."*

Let us remember today that God is also calling us to inspire people during this Advent season, so that we can bring to fulfilment the words written by Isaiah and quoted by John the Baptist that:

"All mankind shall see the salvation of God."

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes

PARISH OF LARKHILL/WHITEHALL/SANTRY



NEWSLETTER



Parish of Larkhill/Whitehall & Santry Parish Office: Church of the Holy Child, The Thatch Road, Dublin 9. Tel (01) 837 5274 Website: www.whitehall.dublindioocese.ie.

"Our Lady's journey of faith at this time of year perfectly encapsulates the true meaning of the Advent story"

15th December 2019

of Jesus began when his cousin was no longer able to function as

he was imprisoned by Herod.

Advent invites us to open our lives to the coming of Jesus at Christmas. There

was never a time in the

history of the church where the gifts of the faithful were more needed.

John is one of the great figures of Advent as he prepares us for the arrival of Jesus. The manner in

which St Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching

shows that Luke regarded this as an historic moment. John called

people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan.

And this is also what Jesus is asking of each and every one of us this Advent.

John the Baptist is one of three great Advent figures that we can

We have reached the Third Sunday of Advent and Christmas is rapidly approaching. In our Gospel today, Jesus clearly identifies John the Baptist with the arrival of the Messiah: *"He [John the Baptist] is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you."*



John the Baptist is a major figure in the Christian tradition of whom Jesus himself said in our Gospel from St Matthew today *"among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist."*

This is quite an endorsement and unique in the New Testament. This gives John a very significant place in the history of salvation.

And, of course, Jesus began his own ministry by being a follower of John as he was baptised by him in the River Jordan. The ministry

Combined Parish Choirs
present
The Annual Carol Service

This Sunday, 15th December 2019 at
7.30p.m.

in the Church of the Holy Child

Parish Lotto Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were: 1st Jackpot: 6 14 22 25
2nd Jackpot: 3 13 19 29 No Jackpot winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: S. V. Cullen; D. & H. McGrath;
J. Clarke; P. O'Hanlon; E. O' Connor; B. Lyons; A. Cushen.

Next Week's Lotto Draw: First Jackpot €15,000 Second Jackpot €550
Plus 7 consolation prizes of €25

Parish Christmas Mailing – We are looking for people to help with the Christmas mailing. If you are available and are willing to help us please call to the Parish Office in Holy Child to collect the envelopes. We would really appreciate your help with these deliveries. Christmas Cards are available at the doors of the Churches if for some reason you do not receive one. If you wish to submit Christmas Dues, envelopes are inside the cards. Please make sure to put your name and address on the dues envelope. Many thanks.



Family Envelope Boxes - If you normally receive a Family Envelope Box please come to the Parish Office to collect the box for 2020. We appreciate your help with this and thank you for your continued support

Christmas Reconciliation Service
Church of the Holy Child –
Wednesday 18th December at 7.30p.m.

Individual Confession on Tuesday
24th December after 10.00a.m. until 12 noon

Holy Child – Christmas Deep Clean
Holy Child Church will be closed for cleaning and polishing on Monday 16th December and Tuesday 17th December. Mass at 9.15a.m. and 7.00p.m. will take place in the Parish Centre. Sorry for any inconvenience. *Canon John*

Recently Deceased: You are asked to remember in your Prayers:
Margaret Rita Cloake
Patrick (Pat) Weston
William Walsh

May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.



The Parish Pastoral Collection will take place next weekend 21st/22nd December. The money we receive goes to the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams in our Parish. Could those who have agreed to help with this collection please come to the Sacristy before Mass and collect a basket? Our sincere thanks for your continued help.

Mass Intentions from the 15th December

Church of the Holy Child

Sat. 14th Dec.	7.00p.m.	Jack Doyle – Month's Mind
Vigil		Mary Eastwood, Willie Roche, - 1st Anniversaries Joan Boyle, Colin Berry - 1st Anniversaries Eamon Hanlon – Anniversary
Sun. 15th Dec.	11.15a.m.	Mary Flynn – 1st Anniversary Gerry McCarthy - Anniversary
	12.30p.m.	Peter Lloyd, John Maher – Months' Mind.
Mon. 16th Dec.	9.15a.m.	Lily O'Connor – Anniversary Agnes Tully – Birthday Remembrance
Tues. 17th Dec.	9.15a.m.	For the intentions of all those who offered sympathy & support to the O'Keefe Family on death of Philomena RIP
	7.00p.m.	Michael Rossiter – 1st Anniversary
Wed. 18th Dec.	7.00p.m.	Tommy Garland – Anniversary Mary Fogarty – Birthday Remembrance
Thurs. 19th Dec.	9.15a.m.	Maurice - Month's Mind & Aileen Caulfield – Anniversary Carmel Rogan – Anniversary
	7.00p.m.	Michelle & James Fannin – Anniversaries
Fri. 20th Dec.	9.15a.m.	Jo Coy, Delia Mulrooney – Anniversaries
	7.00p.m.	Liam Scahill – Month's Mind, John Kileen – Anniversary Eileen, Joe, Judy Noonan & Noonan Family – Annivs. Seán, Eileen, Clare & Torphy Family - Anniversaries Julia Whelan & Family – Anniversaries
Sat. 21st Dec.	7.00 p.m.	Rita Phelan - Month's Mind Liam Bollard, Mary & James Sullivan - Anniversaries Tommy & Monica O'Connor – Anniversaries Annie Gibbons, Sheila Farrington – Anniversaries Nora O'Hanlon, Gerry Curley – Christmas Remembrance.
Sun 22nd Dec.	11.15a.m.	Elizabeth Goggins, John & Anne Madden – Anniversaries
	12.30p.m.	Gerry & Pauline O'Farrell - Anniversaries Tony Marmion, Catherine & Michael McLoughlin – Annivs. Dorrie Farrell – Remembrance R.I.P. Mai. Briscoe – Anniversary
Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball		
Wed. 18th Dec.	10.00a.m.	Ethel Maguire (Anniversary)
Sun. 22nd Dec.	10.00a.m.	Fr. Bernard Collier, Patrick (Patsy) Caul (Anniversaries) Patrick & Eileen McElroy (Anniversaries)

**Church Collections -
Sunday 8th December**

1st Collection	€1,573
Family Envelope	€1,140

Gospel Christmas at Gardiner St. Thurs. Dec. 19th at 8p.m. for a feel good evening of soulful cheer. To aid the Peter McVerry Trust. Doors open 7.30. Tickets €15 Adults, OAP/Students €12 available front desk Gardiner Street Parish.