

*incomparable night which is, in a sense, within time and beyond time. From the Virgin's womb was born a Child, a manger became the cradle of immortal Life. Christmas is the festival of life, because Jesus, [was] born like all of us."*

Mary's first thought on hearing the joyful news of Christ's coming birth from the Angel Gabriel was to set off from her home and we are told that she went *in haste* to help her kinswoman Elizabeth, who was also pregnant and in need of assistance (Luke 1:38-39). We then have the beautiful encounter of Jesus and John the Baptist with their mothers before either of the children were born. We are all called to follow Mary's example as Christians by reaching out to those in need in our families, in our community and in our country.

I know that for many of you this Christmas may be tinged with sadness as you remember a loved one who has gone home to God. We can be sure that those who are no longer with us are sharing in the peace of Christ's light in heaven today. And we can be especially close to them when we are celebrating the Eucharist together as the church in heaven joins with the church on earth in praise and thanksgiving to God.

You may look back on past Christmases when a relative or friend who joined you around the Christmas table then is not with us today perhaps because they may have emigrated. And while technology is fantastic, Skype or Facetime are not the same as having someone present. This year we have a new webcam in our Church which broadcasts our services live through the internet. If you have family or friends abroad who would like to join with us over the Christmas period they can log on to the parish website at <http://www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie/> and click on the link to "Live Services" at the top.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and ask God's blessing on all your families and friends.

*Gerard Reilly is a 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.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie).

*"The challenge of Christmas is to love the God we cannot see in the neighbour we can see."*

**23rd December 2018**

encounter family, friends and strangers in different circumstances and situations.

As we gather for mass on this Christmas, we give thanks to God for the gift of his Son Jesus to us.

Christmas is not an event that has been frozen in the history of 2,000 years ago but the continuing, living presence of Christ amongst us which effects the lives of millions of people in our World today. And one of the great strengths of our faith is that this day is celebrated by Christians in many different countries, traditions and cultures.

The birth stories about Jesus are found only in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, which we read today. In the birth of Jesus, we see our God made visible to us. The message of Christmas is to love the God we cannot see in the neighbour we can see. This is an important challenge for us all in the coming days when we

Unfortunately, we also know from watching the news during the year, that many Christians, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, have paid the ultimate price for their faith. It is hard to believe that this can be happening in our world today but, unfortunately, it is the case. As the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said: *"The modern persecutors of Christians do not ask which church their victims belong to. The unity that concerns us is regrettably already occurring in certain regions of the world through the blood of martyrdom."*

Speaking at Christmas in the Millennium year, Saint John Paul II said the following about Christmas:

*"Today we celebrate the mystery of Bethlehem, the mystery of an*

## Christmas Blessings



The Newsletter editorial team would like to wish all their readers a very Happy Christmas. May the blessings and joy of this Christmas season be with you throughout the coming year.

The next Newsletter will be available on the 6th January 2019

### Church Collections-15th/16th December 2018

1st Collection €1,723.00  
Share €1,715.00  
Family Envelope €1,770.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity.

### Christmas Crib

Don't forget to visit our beautiful crib and say a little prayer there with wonder and awe at the birth of Our Saviour. It is situated at the top left hand side of the Church.



### Parish Christmas Tree

If you have a family member who is unable to be with you for Christmas you can write their names on the tags provided and hang them on the tree as a way of remembering them.



## Arrangements for Christmas 2018

### Church of the Holy Child

#### Christmas Eve – Monday 24th December

9.15a.m., 7.00p.m. Mass of Christmas for Children & Families

9.00p.m. Night Mass of Christmas

#### Christmas Day – Tuesday 25th December

10.00a.m., 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m.

*No evening Mass on Christmas Day*

#### St. Stephen's Day – Wed. 26th December

10.00a.m.

#### Thursday, 27th & Friday 28th December -

10.00a.m.

#### Saturday 29th December – 10.00a.m. & 7.00p.m. (Vigil)

**Sunday 30th December** – 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m., 6.00p.m.

**Monday 31st & Tuesday 1st January** – 10.00a.m.

### Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th January-

9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.

#### Saturday 5th January – 10.00a.m.

**Feast of the Epiphany – Saturday 5th January** – 7.00p.m. (Vigil)

**Sunday 6th January** – 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m. & 6.00p.m.

### Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

#### Christmas Eve – Monday 24th December

6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas for Children & Families

8.30p.m. Night Mass of Christmas

#### Christmas Day – Tuesday 25th December

10.00a.m.

#### Wednesday 26th December – 10.00a.m.

**Sunday 30th December** – 10.00a.m.

#### Feast of the Epiphany

**Sunday 6th January** – 10.00a.m.

**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers: William Roche, Joan Boyle, Colin Berry, Michael Rossiter, John (Jimmy) O'Brien, Joe O'Connor, Earnest Noel Muller, Mary Flynn, Carmel Rogan  
*May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.*



**Our Thanks** – The Priests of the Parish wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks all, who have forwarded Christmas dues. If you wish to receive an individual acknowledgement please contact the Parish Office.



## Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 9 13 21 30 2nd Jackpot: 10 11 14 27 No Jackpot winner.

The winners of the 7 prizes of €25 were: M. & J. Stanley; H. Murphy; B. Hewitt; B. Adderley; A. Neeson; D. Hannigan; J. Roche.

Next Week's Lotto: First Jackpot €13,750 Second Jackpot €1,300

**Plus 7 Consolation Prizes of €25**

The next draw will take place on Tuesday, 8th January 2019. *The Lotto Committee*



Holy Communion is available to all communicants under both kinds at the Main Altar, Priest's Chair side.



**Parish Shop-** Cards for all occasions, Christmas Greeting Cards, Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards, 2019 Catholic Diaries, 2019 Church Art Calendars, Nativity Sets & lots more.

### Mass Intentions for the coming week

#### Church of the Holy Child

**Mon. 24th Dec.** 9.15a.m. Pat Kilgallon (Birthday Remembrance)  
Noel Kelly (Anniversary)  
Vigil 7.00p.m. Christmas Mass for Children and Families  
9.00p.m. Christmas Mass

**Tues. 25th Dec.** 10.00a.m., 11.15a.m. and 12.30p.m.- Christmas Masses

**Wed. 26th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Francis & Frances Soden (Anniversary)

**Thurs. 27th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Denis Clarke (Month's Mind)

**Fri. 28th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Peter Walsh (Anniversary) Stephen Burke (R.I.P.)

**Sat. 29th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Brian Byrne (Anniversary)  
Vigil 7.00p.m. Nancy Seery (Month's Mind)

**Sun. 30th Dec.** 11.15a.m. People of the Parish  
12.30p.m. Kathleen Collins, Dermot Brangan (Month's Mind)  
Philomena Heaney (1st Anniversary)  
Maurice Coffey (Anniversary)  
6.00p.m. Peggy & Tommie Nolan (Anniversaries)  
Peggy McCaul, Charles Mongey (Anniversaries)

**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**

**Wed. 26th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Michael O'Hanlon (R.I.P.)

**Sun. 30th Dec.** 10.00a.m. Fr. Bernard Collier, Con & Mary Judge (Anniversaries)  
Colin Berry (R.I.P.)

### Volunteer In Your Community – Highfield Healthcare are looking for Volunteers

Would you have some time to come visit their residents in Highfield Healthcare in Whitehall or Glasnevin? The main role of volunteers in Highfield is befriending their residents- just there to talk, listen, reminisce and empathise. You could also bring residents to and from activities. Further info. Tel. Helen Hennessy at 01 886 5435 . This can be a challenging role therefore applicants should be in sound health.