

thing that we can have even in the midst of turmoil, conflict and unsolved problems. It is independent of outer circumstances.

Peace is a state of inner serenity, and designates right relations with God and with people. Peace in this complete sense cannot be created by human effort alone. It is a gift of God. It is the gift of Christmas.



God reaches out to us in peace, and wants us to reach out to one another. Peace is God's gift to us; our gift to God is to make peace with one another. Christmas is a marvellous opportunity to mend quarrels and heal rifts.

In the final analysis, peace is communion with God. At Christmas God seems to be very close to us and very loving towards us. At Christmas God gives us a taste of the peace that passes all understanding, a peace this world cannot give, a peace no one can take from us.

Reflection

As God's chosen ones, we should clothe ourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

We must bear with one another and forgive one another, just as the Lord has forgiven us.

If we are angry,

we must not let the sun go down on our anger.

Above all we should clothe ourselves with love, and the peace of God will reign in our hearts and in our homes. Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy



Christmas Blessings

The Newsletter editorial team would like to wish all our 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 8th January 2017.



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

Peace on Earth

25th December 2016

One of the things we always associate with Christmas is peace. Christ is referred to as the *Prince of Peace*. At his birth the angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, and *peace* to his people on earth.' These are some of the loveliest words in the Gospel. You could say that they sum up the Gospel.

What kind of peace are we talking about? Sometimes what we call peace is not really peace at all. Peace is not merely the absence of war or dissension. That is a negative peace. The peace we are talking about here is something positive.

The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom*. *Shalom* conveys a sense of completeness, a state of perfect well being. It is a summary of all the blessings of the messianic age. This is the peace Jesus brings.

An essential component of peace is righteousness. Where there is

no righteousness, there is no genuine peace. Hence, there can be no peace for the wicked.



Justice is another vital component of peace. Peace is founded on justice. Any peace that is not founded on peace is a phoney peace. So, if we want peace we must work for justice.

Peace is not the same as tranquillity. Tranquillity is external. Peace is internal. Peace results when we trust in God, and when the desire to please God is the dominant thing in our life. This is some-

Christmas/New Year – As this is the Christmas/New Year edition of our Parish Newsletter, words of appreciation are due to so many. At the time of writing, we have been uplifted in spirit by taking part in our annual Carol Service. Christmas brings out the best in people and the talents and gifts of parishioners are generously expressed to enhance liturgy, worship and service. I would like to offer thanks to all involved in ministry in our Parish, they provide a great support to people at the various stages in spiritual life. Our gratitude is also due to our dedicated Sacristans in both Churches which are always spic and span, many thanks to God's Housekeepers who work throughout the year. Thanks also to Dorothy Gray for the seasonal Church décor and our beautiful Crib which as usual this year is splendid and well worth a visit to say a little prayer. Thanks to Marie Tuohy who prepared the beautiful floral arrangements and to Margaret & Peter Grimes for decorating the Parish Christmas Tree. Many thanks to Tina Deegan and her team of volunteers who manage the Parish Centre. Finally, a very sincere appreciation for all the contribution Anne Flanagan makes to the pastoral administration of our Parish, it's invaluable. To Parishioners and visitors among us; may I wish you all the blessings and grace of this holy time and may 2017 be filled with joy, peace and happiness. *Fr. John Jones*



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.

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.

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul would like to sincerely thank parishioners for their generosity at their recent collection. The amount raised from this Parish was €14,207.

Recently Deceased: You are asked to remember in your Prayers: Joan Kearney
Anthony Thomas Noonan,
John Killeen, Martin Moore
May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.



Ministers of the Eucharist

The roster for January 2017 is available on the table at Reception in the Parish



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.



Prayer at the start of the year

Lord, I sometimes wonder where I'm going and what is the meaning of my life. I wonder especially what the New Year holds for me. Will it bring joy or sorrow, success or failure, life or death? But then I remember that you came on earth: and travel the road of life with me. And so I say to my soul: 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand in the hand of Christ, your Brother; that will be better than a light and safer than a known path.' Amen



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:
1st Jackpot: 7 11 20 22 2nd Jackpot: 1 2 6 14
There was no Jackpot winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: P. O'Keeffe:

G. Levins: C. Reid: M. McNamara: M. McGuirk: F. Gallagher:
P. Smith. No Lotto Next Week. Next Lotto Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

Jackpots on the 3rd Jan.: First Jackpot €3,000 Second Jackpot €2,000

Plus 7 consolation prizes of €25



Mass Intentions for the coming week

Church of the Holy Child

Monday 26th December	10.00a.m.	Francis and Frances Soden (Anniversary) No Evening Mass
Tuesday 27th December	10.00a.m.	Mai Briscoe (Anniversary) No Evening Mass
Wednesday 28th Dec.	10.00a.m.	Jane O'Rourke (Month's Mind) No Evening Mass
Thursday 29th Dec.	10.00a.m.	Brian Byrne (Anniversary) No Evening Mass
Friday 30th December	10.00a.m.	Available for intention No Evening Mass
Saturday 31st December	10.00a.m.	Available for intention
Vigil	7.00p.m.	Peggy & Tommy Nolan, (Anniversaries), Charles Mongey (RIP), Eli zabeth & Patrick McGrath (Anniversaries), Nora O'Hanlon (RIP)
Sunday 1st January	11.15a.m.	People of the Parish
	12.30p.m.	Richard O'Flynn (Anniversary)
	6.00p.m.	Mary Lyons (Anniversary)
Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball		
Wed. 28th December	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Sunday 1st January	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention

Highfield Healthcare are looking for Volunteers -Could you offer a couple of hours of your time every week to come visit their residents in Highfield Healthcare in Whitehall or Glasnevin? Their current volunteers range in age from 19-82 years and every person offers something unique to their programme. The main role of Volunteering in Highfield is befriending their residents – just being there to talk, listen, reminisce and empathise. You could also bring them to and from activities. Share your talent with residents (knitting, gardening, singing, playing an instrument etc.) They would like to hear from you. Please contact Helen Hennessy, the volunteer coordinator, Ph. 8374444 Mobile 086 838 5181. Email hhennessy@highfieldhealthcare.ie for more details on this rewarding position. **Note:** This can also be a challenging role. Therefore applicants should be in sound health.