

"This too shall pass" and there will be a time when our busier lives will return and we will be once more called to be active and busy again in our churches. Maybe God is allowing us some unexpected "time out", so that we will be spiritually ready for the challenges ahead. When we emerge from this time, there will still be the need to address the challenges that face our church, the most important of which is how we can more effectively share our faith with the generations that come after us and encourage them to become a more active part of our Christian community.

Jesus was a frequent guest at Martha and Mary's home in Bethany and he was clearly good friends of the two sisters and their brother Lazarus. We read of three visits there in Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-53, and John 12:1-9.

We are told in St. John's Gospel that "Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus." This unique statement which tells us of the special relationship Jesus had with Martha, her sister, and her brother. And, of course, this close friendship Jesus later raised Lazarus from the dead.

It has been said that Martha and Mary the contemplative and active dimensions of the Christian life, and the tensions between both, which is part of each one of our faith journeys.

Like Martha and Mary, in times of difficulty such as we are in now, it can seem that our prayers have gone unanswered. They were praying that their brother would recover from his illness and Jesus appeared to be absent and not responding. They must have wondered why Jesus was silent at their time of need. However, Jesus was in fact far from silent and was able to use God's grace in these circumstances to bring about one of his best-known miracles: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. An occasion that brought many people to the faith. Mary and Martha's prayers were answered as we can be sure ours will be today. God sometimes works in mysterious ways and we can be sure that he always hears us and listens to us especially in times of challenges. So, let us pray to St. Martha in particular that she will help us to find time for Jesus in the midst of our turbulent and unsettling world today.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People -ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8a.m. – 8p.m., by calling 0818 222 024. hours may be extended to meet the demand.

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.

"God is allowing us some unexpected "time out", so that we will be spiritually ready for the challenges ahead."

29th March 2020

In chapter 11 of St. John's Gospel which we read today, we are told that Jesus has just received news that his friend Lazarus is seriously ill.

The disciples are somewhat alarmed because there were people in that area who were threatening the life of Jesus and they tried to dissuade him from going. But, when it is clear that Jesus has made up his mind to go, St. Thomas shows courage says to the other disciples, "Come, let us also go to die with him."

This is a great display of courage from the Apostle who has gone down in history as "Doubting Thomas." On this occasion, he was prepared to step up to the mark and support Jesus.

I suppose in some ways, we are all being asked to step up the mark in the current circumstances. Unfortunately, stepping up to the mark may involve stepping back for a while and self-isolating due to the Coronavirus. We have never had a

Season of Lent like this and it was hard to envisage it on Ash Wednesday just a month ago. We should ask God how he would like us to use this time in a different way than usual, as we prepare for Easter in just over two week's time. Perhaps we can use this time for some reading, reflection and prayer. Where possible, we can join mass online or on parish radio.

A Daughter of Charity once told me that her approach to her missionary work as "Action... Reflection...Action." In other words, we can have busy times in our lives when there is a lot going on and then this should ideally be followed by a time of stepping back in order to refresh ourselves. So this may be a time of somewhat enforced reflection but of reflection nonetheless. We can use the time to rebuild our spiritual resources, spend more with God in prayer and to think about the direction of our lives.

As Abraham Lincoln once said:

Thank You to our Priests and Frontline Services.

I would like on behalf of our Pastoral Council and Parishioners (who normally attend both Churches) to extend our sincere thanks to the Priests of our Parish, Fr. John Jones, Fr. Tom Kearney and Fr. Brendan Cooney. They have kept our Masses going both physically and on Webcam in the Church of the Holy Child during this very difficult time along with the many other services they perform. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all and Fr. Jim Hickey who has said and concelebrated mass in our parish for many years. I have received many messages of how much our parishioners appreciate this. We are truly privileged to have such wonderful men to look after our spiritual needs and nourishment. We also appreciate that our church is open for private prayer in the mornings. We acknowledge that any of this can change very quickly during this very critical Covid- 19 period.

We know that the priests would also want us to acknowledge that all of this is made so much easier with the excellent frontline services and co-operation that is there to assist them and parishioners: Anne and Tina in Administration and Hospitality, the Sacristans, Servers and Volunteers who all ensure that all is in place to allow the continuation of Holy Mass and Prayer to our parishioners. We want to say thank you and stay safe.

Noreen O’Prey – Chairperson – Parish Pastoral Council

As we are only too well aware by now our world is facing an unprecedented health crisis posed by the coronavirus. To manage the rate of increase and to adequately and effectively treat those who have the illness caused by the virus drastic action had had to be taken by all sectors of society. To that end **ALL MASSES IN HOLY CHILD AND BLESSED MARGARET BALL ARE SUSPENDED** until further notice. In the meantime, the priests of the parish will celebrate Mass each day at 9.15a.m (when there is a Priest available) and Parishioners can watch via the Parish Webcam. They will offer the Mass for all ‘booked’ Mass intentions for that day. The Parish Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 11.15a.m. and is available via Parish Radio and Parish Webcam. This Mass will be offered for all Saturday and Sunday Mass Intentions in Holy Child and Blessed Margaret Ball. The Church of the Holy Child will be open for private prayer from 10.00a.m. – 12.00noon Monday to Friday.



Recently Deceased: You are asked to remember in your Prayers: Jean Arten, Anne Downey, Joe McHugh, Enda Faughnan, Mary Donnelly, Margaret Reddy

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

Mass Intentions – Church of the Holy Child

Sat/Sun

28th/29th March Pamela Edge – 1st Anniversary
Charlie Mulvany, Margaret Vogelsang – Anniversaries
Mary O’Connor , Joseph & Sheila Hanratty – Annivs.
Stephen (Snr.) Kathleen & Stephen (Jnr) Kennedy – Anniversaries

Mon 30th March

Wed 1st April Catherine (Kay) Mullen – Anniversary
Thurs. 2nd April Michael & Margaret Padden – Anniversaries
Friday 3rd April Richard Carrick – Anniversary
Deceased members of the Tully Family
Altar List of the Dead

Sat/Sun

4th/5th April John Breslin, John Spellacy – Anniversaries
Vincent Moore – 1st Anniversary
Cormac O’Reilly – 1st anniversary
Mary Fogarty – 1st Anniversary
Maureen Wise – 1st Anniversary
Reginald (Reg) Rumgay – Anniversary
John Carney (Snr.) John Carney (Jnr.) Anniversaries



At this time we must still try to maintain our Churches so we would ask that parishioners who contribute via the family planned giving envelopes to please drop



them into the safes in the Church when the Church is open between 10a.m. & 12noon. Also, this might be a time to consider donating by Direct Debit. Please contact the Parish Office and a form can be posted out to you. Tel: 01 8375274 There is also an on-line payment facility for the Common Fund and Share collections on the front page of the diocesan website. Click on “Donate”.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week - ceremonies will be celebrated in different circumstances this year due to the Coronavirus. Please check the Website for arrangements which will be available in the coming days.

The Bonnington Hotel is partnering with “Friends of the Elderly” to help those in our local community who are isolated & vulnerable by providing hot meals for the elderly, free of charge.

If you know anyone in need of this service or want to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact them by email or phone.

Call: 01 8731855 or Email: info@friendsoftheelderly.ie