

Advent to reflect on the reality of Christmas and what God's mercy and forgiveness means for us. The parish Advent Reconciliation Service, which will take place on Monday 17th December at 7.30pm, will provide one such opportunity to do this. I believe that we need to reclaim Advent as a much needed space to reflect on our faith.

Today's Gospel tells us to *"Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."* This reminds us that we are passing through this World and need to make the most of the gifts and opportunities that God has given to each and every one of us. Our first reading today from Prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the coming saviour *"I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land."* During Advent, let us allow ourselves some moments of stillness and quiet, so that we can listen to what God may be saying to us at this time of the year.

There are practical ways in which we could make this Advent more meaningful. Perhaps we could attend mass more regularly (in person or online with our new parish webcam which can be accessed from our website <http://whitehall.dublindioocese.ie>) and make it a time of prayer and reflective anticipation. If we are sending Christmas Cards why not choose cards with a distinctly religious theme and message. Also, it is a time for giving and sharing with those in need. The St. Vincent de Paul collection, which will take place in our churches in the coming weeks, will provide us with an opportunity to help the most needy in our community.

Speaking at the start of Advent in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI said: *"Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us. How often does God give us a glimpse of his love!"*

I wish you all a peaceful and holy Advent.

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,
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"Advent is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are signs of the attention God has for each one of us."

2nd December 2018

When walking down Grafton Street or visiting any of the shopping centres around Dublin in the last week or so, you would be forgiven for thinking that Christmas has already arrived. The Christmas trees are up, the lights are on and there are plenty of compelling window displays from which to choose gifts.



However, from a Christian perspective, the crib in Bethlehem is still empty, the shepherds have not heard the voice of the angels and the star has yet to rise to tell the three wise men of the birth of Jesus. During the Season of Advent, the Church offers us an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Jesus. There is a sense in our society that things have to

happen almost instantly. We have lost the sense of quiet anticipation. And I think that's what Advent, which only lasts for four weeks, is trying to teach us. Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year when our Sunday gospel readings change from Mark to Luke. So, in a way, we turn a page today as we start the new liturgical year.

Pope Francis says: *"Thanks to [God's] help, we can always start afresh". "You can start again, because [Christ] awaits you, He is close to you, He loves you, and He is merciful. ... We are able to open our eyes again, overcome sadness and tears and sing a new song."*

It is really important that you take some time out during

Parish Assembly Whitehall Parish Wednesday 5th December 2018

A Parish Assembly will take place in Whitehall Parish Centre on Wed., 5th Dec. 2018 at 7.30p.m., to discuss the needs of the Parish in light of the recent visit of Pope Francis to Ireland and his call to the Mission of the Laity.

We would encourage all parishioners to attend this meeting and share their views.

Noreen O'Prey - Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

First Friday – 7th December

Mass Schedule: Holy Child 9.15am, 7.00pm.

Confessions on Thurs. after the 9.15a.m. and before the 7p.m. Masses

**Saturday 8th December
Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass Schedule:

Holy Child: Vigil : Friday 7pm,

Saturday 10.00a.m, 11.15a.m.

Blessed Margaret Ball: 10.00a.m.

We welcome in Baptism:

Daniel Silva Donnelly

*May this newly baptised
Child always know and
love Jesus as his friend.*



**Church Gate Collection
Parish Pastoral Collection**

This Collection will take place this weekend 1/2nd Dec. 2018. The money we receive goes towards the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It ensures that each Team – the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy Team, Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of the Word, Baptism Team, R.C.I.A. Team, Funeral Ministry Team, Bethany Team, Family Mass Team, Adult Faith Team and not forgetting those involved in Music Ministry in both churches can be resourced and trained and therefore can give the best service to their ministry. **Could those who have agreed to help with this collection please come to the Sacristy before Mass this weekend and collect a basket. Many thanks for your continued help with this important Parish collection.**

**Combined Parish Choirs
present
The Annual Carol Service**

**Sunday, 16th December 2018 at 7.30p.m. in the
Church of the Holy Child
All Welcome**



Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers: Helen Whelan, Dermot Brangan, Kathleen Collins, Nancy Seery
May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.



Church Collections

Weekend 24th/25th November 2018

1st Collection €1,906.00

Share Collection €1,705.00

Family Offering €1,030.00

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity.



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 10 11 16 27 2nd Jackpot: 7 22 26 27 No Jackpot winner.
The winners of the 7 prizes of €25 were: T. Deegan; S. & M. McIntyre Barn; S. Noonan; M. Colgan; M. Prendiville; C. Corcoran; N. Keenan.
**Next Week's Lotto: First Jackpot €13,000 Second Jackpot €1,150
Plus 7 Consolation Prizes of €25 and 5 Special Prizes of €100.**

**Mass Intentions for the coming week
Church of the Holy Child**

**Mon. 3rd Dec. 9.15a.m. Anne Carmel Duff (1st Anniversary)
7.00p.m. Available for Intention**
**Tues. 4th Dec. 9.15a.m. Mary and Freddie McInerney (Anniversaries)
7.00p.m. Available for Intention**
**Wed. 5th Dec. 9.15a.m. Available for Intention
7.00p.m. Andrew Dunne (First Anniversary)**
**Thurs. 6th Dec. 9.15a.m. Elizabeth & Patricia McGrath (Anniversaries)
7.00p.m. Sarah Comiskey (Anniversary)**
Fri. 7th Dec. 9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m. (Vigil Holy Day) Altar List of the Dead
**Sat 8th Dec. 10.00a.m. Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Vigil 7.00p.m. Eammon Hanlon, Kathleen O'Donnell (Anniversaries)
Eva Towell (Birthday Remembrance)**
**Sun. 9th Dec. 11.15a.m. People of the Parish
12.30p.m. Daniel (Don) Kearns, John & Brendan O'Hanlon Annivs
Michael (Snr.) Imelda, Michael (Jnr.) Maguire (Annivs)
6.00p.m. Available for Intention**
Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball
Wed. 5th Dec. 10.00a.m. Available for Intention
Sat. 8th Dec. 10.00a.m. Holy Day -Anne Townsend (Anniversary)
Sun. 9th Dec. 10.00a.m. Available for Intention

Pilgrimage to Knock on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Saturday 8th December - Coach from Whitehall Church at 8.00a.m. For more details and to book please contact Marie McAllister Tel: 01 842 5678

Crosscare Annual Parish Food Appeal - Archbishop Martin is once again seeking support for a Parish Food Appeal this weekend Dec. 1st/2nd to support the work of the Crosscare Foodbanks. This year Crosscare are asking that collections be held on one weekend only 1st/2nd Dec.

Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball
Could you lend a hand with the Parish Christmas Mailing? Distributors needed for the following areas: **Aulden Grange, Oak Park, Larch Hill, Woodlawn, Burnside & Royal Oak.** Envelopes are available for distribution in Blessed Margaret Ball Chapel.

This will allow them to distribute hampers in good time for Christmas to hundreds of families. Items that are most needed at this time are:

- A. Toiletries and cleaning products**
- B. Non-perishable food**
- C. Festive foods**