

reflect on our faith. Today's Gospel tells us to *"Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming."* This reminds us that we are passing through this World and need to make the most of the gifts that God has given to each of us.

Our first reading today from Prophet Isaiah reflecting of God's presences reminds us that *"you guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind."* 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. Like the servants in today's Gospel, our world today is impatient and unwilling to wait for things to happen. 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 the Season of Advent may be trying to teach us. In the busy weeks to come, we are encouraged to take some "time out" to think about the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As the poet Patrick Kavanagh reminds us in his poem Advent: *"Christ comes with a January flower."*

There are practical ways in which we could make this Advent more meaningful. Perhaps we could attend mass more regularly, wherever we happen to be, 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

*Gerard Reilly is a Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes*

## PARISH OF LARKHILL/WHITEHALL/SANTRY



# NEWSLETTER



**Celebrating  
the Diamond Jubilee  
of the Church of the  
Holy Child  
1957 – 2017**

Parish Office: Church of the Holy Child,  
The Thatch Road, Dublin 9. Tel (01) 837 5274  
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3rd December 2017

### First Sunday of Advent

The Season of Advent, which begins today, invites us to touch into our deeper longings for life, light, truth and joy. It is a short, compact season of just four weeks allowing us time for much needed reflection and prayer before Christmas begins.

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year when our Sunday gospel readings change from Matthew to Mark. 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."*

The light and hope of Advent is symbolised by the lighted

candles from our Advent wreath which can shine Christ's love into the darker parts of our lives over the past year whether this is bereavement, illness, depression or disappointment. We can be sure that Jesus will always accompany us through our doubts, difficulties and challenges.

The Augustinian writer, Father Kieran O'Mahony says that: *"The Season of Advent encourages us and takes us back to our original longing and quest which brought us to God in the first place."*

It is really important that you take some time out during 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 closer to Christmas, will provide one such opportunity to do this. I believe that we need to reclaim Advent as a much needed space to



Date to remember!  
 Combined Parish Choirs present  
**THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE**  
 Sunday, 10th December 2017  
 at 7.30p.m. in the  
 Church of the Holy Child  
 All welcome.

**Friday 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
 Mass Schedule: **Church of the Holy Child** –  
 Thursday 7th Dec. 7.00 pm, (Vigil)  
 Friday 9.15am, 11.15am, & 7pm.  
**Blessed Margaret Ball** – 10.00am Mass

**Adult Faith Team Meeting** will take place next  
 Wednesday December 6th at 7.30p.m. in the  
 Parish Centre.

**We welcome in Baptism:**



**Kal Alan Paul Noonan Keating**  
**Coby Joe Dunbar**

*May these newly baptised  
 Children always know  
 and love Jesus as their friend.*

**Recently Deceased** You are asked to  
 remember in your Prayers:

**Brendan Cooke**  
**Mary Hanlon**  
**Carmel Flood**



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

**Pilgrimage to Knock Friday 8th  
 December. Feast of the  
 Immaculate Conception**  
 Coach from Church of the Holy  
 Child at 8am. Contact Marie  
 McAllister Tel: 01 8425678

**Great gift idea for Christmas  
 "You Raise Me Up"  
 Red Hurley Concert**  
 with special guests  
**Whitehall Adult Choir**  
**Church of the Holy Child**  
**27th April 2018 at 8.00p.m.**

Tickets €20 in aid of New Church  
 Organ. Tickets on sale in Church  
 Shop before & after 11.15a.m. Mass  
 on Sunday 3rd, 10th, & 17th  
 December & also on the 10th and  
 17th in the Chapel of Blessed  
 Margaret Ball after 10a.m. Mass.  
 They can also be purchased at the  
 Carol Service  
 10th December 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Join Mercy Centre, St. Brendan's  
 Drive, Coolock for their **Twilight  
 Retreat Tues. 12th December 7.30 –  
 10pm.** To book Tel: 8487259

**Pro-Cathedral Concert Series –  
 Messiah:** Thursday 14th Dec. for  
 their Messiah Concert conducted by  
 Blánaid Murphy, also singers and  
 Marlborough Baroque Orchestra.  
 Tickets €20 available at Pro-  
 Cathedral Parish Office on Tel 874  
 5441 or [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)

**Special Collection Next Weekend  
 for the Society of St. Vincent de  
 Paul** The Annual Christmas Appeal  
 will take place next weekend  
 9th & 10th December. It will re-  
 place the usual SHARE Collection

**LOTTO**

**Please Support your Parish Lotto**



Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:  
 1st Jackpot: 2 7 16 23 2nd Jackpot: 5 18 19 29  
 No Jackpot winner. The winners of the Seven Consolation  
 Prizes of €25 were:- M. Campbell: C. Holden: M. Hogan:  
 D.& A. O'Brien: H. Long: N. & C. McDonnell: T. Colgan.  
 Next Draw: 1st Jackpot €14,750 2nd Jackpot €2,000  
 Plus seven consolation prizes of €25. & Five Extra Prizes of €100

**Christmas Concert - Gardiner Street Parish** presents Liam Lawton on Monday 4th  
 December at 8pm in Church of St. Francis Xavier. All proceeds to the Jesuit Mission  
 in Assam, NE India. Tickets cost €20 and will be available at the door.

**Christmas Gift- Sale in aid of Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless People**  
 This Sunday 3rd December Time: 3.30pm to 6.00pm. Venue: Greenfield Park  
 Community Club, Shanliss Ave., Santry. Lovely Gifts at very reasonable prices. Raffle  
 Christmas toys and lots more. Tea/Coffee. Entire proceeds to the Capuchin Day  
 Centre. Help Bro. Kevin & his team who do Trojan work for the homeless. They start  
 at 6.30a.m. every morning to cater for the ever increasing numbers of men, women &  
 children less fortunate than ourselves who attend the Capuchin Day Centre.

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

<b>Monday 4th Dec.</b>	9.15a.m.	Available for Intention
	7.00pm	Hilda King (1st Anniversary)
<b>Tues 5th Dec.</b>	9.15am.	Thanksgiving
	7.00pm.	Caroline Russell (Anniversary)
<b>Wed. 6th Dec.</b>	9.15am.	Sarah Comiskey (Anniversary)
	7.00pm.	Edward McDermott (Anniversary)
<b>Thurs. 7th Dec.</b>	9.15am.	Available for Intention
	7.00pm.	Available for Intention
<b>Fri. 8th Dec.</b>	9.15am.	St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society
	11.15a.m.	Immaculate Conception
	7.00pm.	Eamonn Hanlon (Anniversary)
<b>Sat. 9th Dec.</b>	10.00am.	Catherine Duffy (Anniversary)
	Vigil	Margaret Whitehead (1st Anniversary), Fr. John O'Callaghan, Cantwell Family (Annivs.) Eva Towell (Birthday Remembrance RIP)
<b>Sun. 10th Dec.</b>	11.15am.	People of the Parish
	12.30pm.	Daniel Kearns, John Hanlon (1st Annivs.) Brendan O'Hanlon (Anniversary)
	6.00pm.	Noleen O'Sullivan (1st Anniversary)
		<b>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</b>
<b>Wed. 6th Dec..</b>	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
<b>Sun. 10th Dec.</b>	10.00a.m.	William, Bridget & Carole Knowles, (Annivs.) Deceased members of Riordan & Callaghan families