

ourselves: how can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts, conversion of heart and life."

The humility of John comes out in this passage, he is happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time he was enthused by his mission to proclaim the good news to the people.

The Gospel reading today also reminds us of the importance of our baptism. When Pope John Paul II was asked what was the most important day of his life, he did not say the day he was ordained a priest or the day he became Pope as you might expect but rather he replied "the day I was baptised." And how many of us can recall our birthday every year but probably not that date of our baptism? It's a lovely thing to say a prayer sometime at the baptismal font in the church where you were baptised.

St Peter, who was the first Pope, described the baptised in a very particular way. He said they are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart." At Baptism, we become members of the church for the first time, we are part of God's own people. In this way, each and every one of us share in the priesthood and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Gerard Reilly is a Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes

Christmas Mass Times

Holy Child Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

11.15a.m. 12.30p.m., 7.00 p.m., Mass of Christmas for Children and Families
9.00 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

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

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

St. Stephen's Day

Tuesday, December 26th – 10.00 a.m.

From Wednesday December 27th to

Friday December 29th – 10.00a.m.

**Saturday December 30th – 10.00a.m. &
7p.m. (Vigil)**

**Sunday December 31st – 11.15a.m.,
12.30p.m. & 6.00p.m.**

Blessed Margaret Ball

Christmas Eve

Sunday December 24th

10.00a.m. Mass
6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas for Children and Families
8.30 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

10.00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday December 27th

10.00 a.m. Mass.

Sunday December 31st – 10.00a.m. Mass



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
Website: www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie.
Email: whitehall@dublindiocese.ie

17th December 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

year.

A colleague came over to my desk at work this week and said that you can see the office Christmas tree from the window just beside where I sit. It's a beautiful tall tree with plenty of bright Christmas lights. I have to admit that I hadn't noticed it up until then because I have been so busy, like Martha in the Gospel, running around in a million different directions!



I thought about this when I have started reading a book from Messenger Publications which is called "Let Advent Be Advent". It is by Father Vincent Sherlock, a priest from Co Mayo who is also Communications Officer for the Diocese of Achonry. It includes daily reflections for the Season of Advent and offers us a brief opportunity to step back from the business of life at this time of the

Father Sherlock writes:
"Advent is a special time. I believe much can be done to reclaim Advent as a time of spiritual preparation."

He goes on to say that:
"Advent calls us to prepare a room for the Lord so that he may truly be welcomed into our hearts and allowed to grow

from the new born child into the one who walked the way marked out for him and, on that walk, called (and still calls) others to join him."

Our Gospel reading this Sunday is from the beginning of the Gospel of Mark which will be read on most Sundays during the coming year. John the Baptist is an important Advent figure as he prepares the way for Jesus. He has an important message for everyone today about conversion and preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. Father Kieran O'Mahony says the following about Advent:

"As Christmas approaches, we could ask

Parish Carol Service –A word of appreciation is more than due to all who were involved in our Annual Carol Service, making it a glorious parish occasion of music, readings from Scripture and reflections. Having publicly acknowledged individual contributions (hopefully without forgetting to mention anybody) I congratulate all who helped the evening run so smoothly and beautifully. God’s Housekeepers presented the church spic and span as usual; Ministers of the Word read excellently and Sam Bolton our Sacristan provided great back up to the presentation. Music is of the essence of course and thanks first of all to Brendan Shanahan for his uplifting contribution. Our gratitude to Caroline and the Blessed Margaret Ball Folk Group whose offering enhanced the service. It is always wonderful to see young people involved and the Youth Choir, directed so well by Katie Judge deserve great praise. Huge congratulations to Kathryn Browne, Musical Director and the Parish Choir who pulled out all the stops for the evening. The organising committee put in a huge amount of work and it ensured that everything was so professionally carried through. Finally, to all who attended in such great numbers; you came not so much as an audience but as supporters and participants. The collection raised €1,155 which will go towards the Parish Organ Fund. Thank you. *Fr. John Jones*

Sacrament of Reconciliation Church of the Holy Child

Monday, December 18th at 7.30p.m.

Individual Confession – Saturday, December 23rd after 10.00a.m.

Mass until 12noon

Blessed Margaret Ball Saturday, December 23rd 11.00a.m. to 12noon.



We welcome in Baptism:



**Morgan Garrett Ryan
Casey Ann Goodson**

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

Recently Deceased You are asked to remember in your Prayers:

**Rita Hughes
Kathleen Foley**

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



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.



Church of the Holy Child

**Diamond Jubilee
1957- 2017**

**Book on sale now in the
Parish Shop and at
Reception in the Parish Centre**

**Cost €5
All proceeds will go
towards a new
Parish Organ**



LOTTO

Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday’s winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 19 25 28 30 2nd Jackpot: 15 17 18 21

No Jackpot winner.

The winners of the Seven Consolation Prizes of €25 were:-

M. Bolton: J. Killoran: M. Noone: C. Balfe: P. Clancy: J. O’Byrne:

Mrs Gibson. The winner of the six special prizes of €50 were: P. & K.

Tolan: S. Moore: E. McGinley: C. Butler: T. Madden: M. McNamara.

Next Draw: 1st Jackpot €15,000 2nd Jackpot €2,000

Plus seven consolation prizes of €25 and 6 special Prizes of €50.

There will be no Lotto Draw on Tuesday 26th December 2017



Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Monday 18th Dec. | 9.15a.m. Aileen Caulfield (Anniversary) |
| | 7.00p.m. Tommy Garland, Eccles Family (Anniversaries) |
| Tues 19th Dec. | 9.15a.m. Christina Campbell (Anniversary) |
| | 7.00p.m. James Coleman, Michelle & James Fannin (Annivs.) |
| Wed. 20th Dec. | 9.15a.m. Jo Coy (Anniversary) |
| | 7.00p.m. John Killeen (1st Anniversary)
Lynch Family (Anniversaries) |
| Thurs. 21st Dec. | 9.15a.m. Available for Intention |
| | 7.00p.m. Martin Moore (1st Anniversary)
Deceased members of the Kavanagh Family (Annivs)
Liam Bollard (Anniv.) Margaret Kelly (R. I. P.) |
| Fri. 22nd Dec. | 9.15a.m. Tully Family |
| | 7.00p.m. Joseph & Judy Noonan & Decd. Members of the
Noonan Family (R.I.P.), Eileen Seán & Clare Torphy
& Decd. Members of the Torphy Family (R.I.P.) |
| Sat. 23rd Dec. | 10.00a.m. Mona O’Brien (Anniversary) |
| Vigil | 7.00p.m. Richard Ormsby, Jimmy Halpin, Frances Murphy,
(Anniversaries), Nora O’Hanlon. |
| Sun. 24th Dec. | 8.30p.m. Antoinette Barry (Recently Deceased) |
| | 11.15a.m. People of the Parish |
| | 12.30p.m. Sarah Dowling (Anniv.) |
| | 6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas for Children & Families |
| | <u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u> |
| Wed. 20th Dec.. | 10.00a.m. Available for Intention |
| Sun. 24th Dec. | 10.00a.m. Available for Intention |
| | 6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas for children & families |

An Evening of Carols and Reflections:

The Dublin Diocesan Music Group is hosting a wonderful evening of Christmas song and reflection on **Monday 18th Dec.** at 8pm in the Monastery of Alphonsus, St. Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra.

All donations in aid of Child Vision. (National Education Centre for Blind Children).