

where the father has immense compassion for his son who has returned home after a life of debauchery. He writes that the challenge for all of us is to become like the compassionate father in the story.

The Jesuit writer, Father Donal Neary puts it when reflecting on this reading:

*"This is a real family story about breakups and reconciliation, about love that covers all sorts of happenings and about love to the end. It is about a father who loved all the time, and many a parent identifies with it."*

Father Kieran O'Mahony makes the following point about this reading:

*"Like many a parable, this story makes its point in what seems to be unfair: the spendthrift son is rewarded and the elder son is hurt and angry. Jesus is telling us that love is a free gift, not something we earn by our goodness. This is true of human love, and is also true of God's love."*

When thinking about people returning to the church, I recall the contribution that RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has made in recent years. The liturgist Father Aidan Kavanagh O.S.B. said that when historians look back at Vatican II and subsequent decades, they may well see RCIA as one of the more important results of the Council.

The vision behind RCIA is that the ministry of welcome for new Catholics is the responsibility of all parishioners. It challenges us to be a living sign of the saving embrace of God's love. It encourages us to be welcoming, missionary and familiar with the Word of God as we accompany new members of our Church on their journey of faith.

Our retired Archbishop, Diarmuid Martin, said the following about RCIA:

*"The Christian initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptised. The faith is shared and transmitted not simply through books. It is shared within community. It is shared in that community which worships Sunday after Sunday in the Eucharist. To know Jesus we must know the scriptures and we must come to share in the life that comes to us in the Eucharist."*

We pray that, in our times, we may reach out to those who, like the prodigal son, have lost their way in life and welcome them with love and compassion.

*Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Malahide and Portmarnock parishes*

## 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](http://www.whitehall.dublindioocese.ie).

*"The challenge for all of us is to become like the compassionate father in the story of the prodigal son"*

**27th March 2022**

which is on display in the hermitage museum in St.

Today's Gospel is the familiar story about the prodigal

son who went off and squandered his

inheritance but was later forgiven and welcomed back home by this father.

I often reflect on the

reaction of his brother who did everything right and played by the rules but felt (perhaps unfairly) that he got very little thanks for his diligence and loyalty.

The spiritual writer Henri Nouwen wrote a wonderful book called "The Return of the Prodigal Son" which I would recommend if you ever come across it. It has sold over a million copies worldwide. In the book, Nouwen reflects on his experience of contemplating Rembrandt's famous painting of the Return of the Prodigal Son

**We stand with  
and pray for the  
brave people of  
Ukraine**



Petersburg. It's a wonderful book where art meets a famous

gospel story

and inspires a

wonderful

meditation by

the author.

Nouwen says

that the phrase "be compassionate

as your Father is compassionate" is

perhaps the most radical

statement that Jesus ever made.

It perfectly describes the attitude

of the Father in the Gospel today. He says that Jesus is inviting us to "become like God and to show the same compassion to others as he is showing to me." We must become like the heavenly Father and see the world through his eyes, Nouwen writes.

The story of the Prodigal Son

**Special Collection in aid of the people of Ukraine – 27th March 2022**

The bishops are asking that a special collection be taken up at all Masses this weekend **26th/27th March**. People are also invited to support the charitable initiatives of Aid to the Church in Need, the Jesuit Refugee Service, and Trócaire. Trócaire is currently responding to the crisis through its partners Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland which have a strong presence in the region and can use resources strategically to the greatest effect. Please be a generous as you can.

*Prayer for the People of Ukraine*

*Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine,*

*For all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world; that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!*

*Our Lady of Kyiv, pray for us!*



**Archdiocese of Dublin Pilgrimage to Knock**

The Archdiocese of Dublin Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on **Sat April 23rd**. The pilgrimage will provide an opportunity for us to gather together as a Diocesan community of faith as we emerge from the challenges of the past two years. The pilgrimage will commence at 11am with "Meet & Greet". A number of workshops will start at 12pm sharp with topics including the upcoming Synod, Laudato Si and Prayerful Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The pilgrimage mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell at 3pm. We are also inviting expressions of interest from choirs who would like to participate. For more information or any queries, please email [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie)

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

The roster for the month of April is available for collection from the table in the reception area of the Parish Centre.

**Key found 1st March 2022**

Key found in the Church grounds with blue tag (Mam's). Please contact the Sacristan in Holy Child.

**Recently Deceased:**

You are asked to remember in your Prayers:  
Donal Quigley  
Bernadette Carberry  
Rosemary Murphy

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



**We welcome in Baptism:**

**Jana Cummins**  
**Steven Nicko Barrett**  
**Eabha Marshall**  
**Harper Mae Cassidy Byrne**  
**Eilis Heather Jarocki**



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



**Please Support your Parish Lotto**

Last weeks' results :

1st Jackpot 1 3 8 15 2nd Jackpot 2 7 14 15

No Jackpot winners. The winners of the €25 prizes were as follows: M. Farrell: J. O'Hanlon: K. Heffernan:

R. Joyce: B. Moore: C. Kerrigan: M. Hannigan.

Next weeks' Prizes are as follows; 1st Jackpot €15,000 2nd Jackpot €1,850

Plus seven Consolation Prizes of €25

Envelopes available at the church doors and in the Parish Centre.

Entries must be received by 9.45a.m on Tuesday morning. Results will be published at the Church doors and in the Parish Newsletter.



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

- Sat 26th Mar 7.00p.m. Declan Magrath – Month's Mind  
Michael Brady – Anniv. & deceased members of the Brady Family – R.I.P.  
John & Mary O'Neill – Anniversaries  
John Spellacy – Anniversary
- Sun 27th Mar 10.30a.m. Gilbert Hall – Recently deceased in U. K  
His wife Deirdre, son Rurai, daughter Lana, family & friends.  
Michael Ennis – Anniversary  
Deceased members of the Henshaw Family – R.I.P.
- 12.30p.m. John McGarry – 1st Anniversary  
Robert & Bridget Blennerhassett – Anniversaries  
Niamh Oglesby, Mary O'Connor – Anniversaries
- Mon 28th Mar 9.15a.m. Available for Intention
- Tues 29th Mar 9.15a.m. Margaret Vogelsang – Anniversary
- Wed 30th Mar 9.15a.m. Stephen & Kathleen Kennedy & Stephen Kennedy (Jnr)  
Michael & Margaret Padden – Anniversaries
- Thurs 31st Mar 9.15.a.m. Available for Intention
- Fri 1st April 9.15a.m. Altar List of the Dead
- Sat 2nd April 7.00p.m. Sheila & Joseph Hanratty – Anniversaries  
Myles & Joey Doyle – Anniversaries  
Richard Carrick – Anniversary  
Mary & Patrick Clarke – Anniversaries  
Madeline Ffrench, Sean Breslin – Anniversaries
- Sun 3rd April 10.30a.m. Matthew McGuinness, Maureen Wyse – Anniversaries  
12.30p.m. Colm Hughes – Month's Mind, Kay Mullen – Anniversary
- Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**
- Sun 27th Mar 10.00a.m. June Besagni – Anniversary  
Teresa Campbell, Tommy Carolan – Anniversaries  
Willie Carolan – Remembrance  
Thanksgiving Mass for all who sympathises with the Hanley Family on the death of Seamus
- Wed 30th Mar 10.00a.m. Available for Intention