

In the stillness of Advent, we learn to be active in proclaiming the kingdom of God and in spreading the good news of the Gospel. We are mindful too of the words, attributed to St. Francis Xavier, whose feast day we celebrated last week, *'Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary also with words.'*

Saint John the Baptist features again in our Gospel reading today. We are told that: *"A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'"*

Father Kieran O'Mahony says: *"John the Baptist is the quintessential Advent figure in the Christian tradition, preparing us even today for the arrival of Jesus."*

He goes on to explain that:

*"The humility of John comes out in this passage, 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."*

St Luke tells us that John the Baptist put a great focus on justice: *"When all the people asked John, 'What must we do, then?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'"*

It is an appropriate day to reflect on the importance of social justice in our Gospel today as we have the vitally important annual collection for the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul at masses this weekend. Even in these challenging times, let us remember those who are less well off and even a small donation will go a long way to make sure that they have a better Christmas. If you can't contribute to the collection at mass today, you can also donate using their website [www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

As we look forward to celebrating the feast of Christmas in two weeks' time, let us recall that the light from our Advent wreath is getting brighter as the third candle is lit. This light symbolises our Advent journey as we make our way during this darker and sometimes stormy month to the great joy of Christmas. It's a time for us all to reflect on the words of today's gospel: *"What must we do?"* It's a different answer of each of us which may take some time to discern, perhaps with advice from others. We can be sure that God has a plan, so that we can help him to build up his Church in these challenging times.

*Gerard Reilly - a 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.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie).

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**12th December 2021**

*"John the Baptist is the quintessential Advent figure in the Christian tradition, preparing us even today for the arrival of Jesus."*



Today we are celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent. This mid-point of Advent is a time for gentle prayer. We begin to notice anew the presence of Jesus in so many different ways. We appreciate the many gifts that we have been given as we see Jesus in the people with whom we live and work - especially our families.

In our Gospel today, the people come to John the Baptist and ask him what is on the face of it a simple question: *"What must we do?"* I suppose at this time in the history of the Church it's a question that we are all asking. On the one hand we are preparing for a Synod in Rome in 2023 and more immediately, Archbishop Dermot Farrell has received the report of the Taskforce on future planning for our Archdiocese which he has asked us

to pray and reflect on during this Advent season. The full report is available on the [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie) website for those of you who might like to read it. You can access it from this link [Building-Hope-Task-Force-Report.pdf \(dublindiocese.ie\)](#) or perhaps ask someone to print it for you.

In our First Reading from the prophet Zephaniah we are told that *"The Lord your God is in your midst"*, words of great consolation which are as true today as they were when they were written centuries ago. The Second reading from St Paul to the Philippians focuses on prayer. We are told that *"the Lord is very near"* and *"if there is anything you need, pray for it."* Prayer leads us to quiet thoughtfulness making us more aware of the needs of others. In the silence of Advent we are inspired to reach out, like Jesus, to those who find it hard to survive, those who are left out by others and those in need of healing words and touch.

## Arrangements for Christmas 2021

### Church of the Holy Child

#### MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

9.15a.m.

Masses for Christmas Eve 4.00p.m.,

6.00p.m. & 9.00p.m.

The children's liturgy is not celebrated again this year due to Covid

**Christmas Day Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

9.00a.m., 10.30a.m. & 12.30p.m.

*No Evening Mass on Christmas Day*

**The Feast of the Holy Family (St. Stephen's Day)**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30a.m., 12.30p.m.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

10.00am.

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

7.00p.m. Vigil Mass

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

10.30a.m. & 12.30p.m.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Feast of the Epiphany**

9.15a.m., 11.15a.m.

### Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

#### MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

8.00p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

**Christmas Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00a.m. Mass

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00a.m. Mass

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00a.m. Mass

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

10.00a.m. Mass

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Feast of the Epiphany**

10.00 a.m. Mass

In the Church of the Holy Child all ceremonies are live streamed.

The obligation to attend Mass in person is still suspended



### **Special Collection this Weekend for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

The Annual Christmas Appeal will take place this weekend **11th & 12th December.**

It will replace the usual SHARE Collection.

Please give what you can.



### **Advent Reflection and Music**

The Adult Faith Team is continuing their Advent Reflection Services each Wednesday at 7.00p.m.

until 22nd Dec. They include readings, prayers/reflections and music as we prepare for Christmas. Services will be broadcast on the parish webcam but parishioners are also welcome to join us in the church at these times.

### **Recently Deceased:**

You are asked to remember in your Prayers – George Saurin  
Bernard Allen, Frances O'Byrne  
*May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.*



### **We welcome in Baptism:**

**Paul Lee Harcourt**

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



### **Please Support your Parish Lotto**

Last weeks' results :

1st Jackpot 5 14 28 30 2nd Jackpot 3 7 11 27

No Jackpot winners.

The winners of the €25 prizes were as follows:

N. O'Beara, A. Flanagan, A. Marron, M. Noone, C. Shelley, M. Moloney, P. Taylor.

Next weeks' Prizes are as follows; 1st Jackpot €15,000 2nd Jackpot €1,150

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 11th Dec 7.00p.m.

Noel Whitehead – Month's Mind  
Margaret Whitehead – Anniversary  
John & Brendan O'Hanlon – Anniversaries  
Christopher Farrell – Anniversary  
Patrick Flanagan & decd. Members of the Flanagan, Connolly, Sheridan, Keaney & Robertson Families.

Sun 12th Dec. 10.30a.m.

Jim & Bill Smith – Anniversaries  
Richard Wilson – Anniversary  
Daniel G. Kearns – Anniversary  
Gary Emmet – Anniversary  
Maureen & Tomás Holt – Anniversaries  
John & Christine Keaney – Anniversaries  
Bridget & James Sheridan – Anniversaries & decd. Members of the Sheridan Family  
Patrick & Georgina Flanagan – Anniversaries  
Jack & Florrie Flanagan – Anniversaries & decd. Members of the Flanagan Family

12.30p.m

Available for Intention  
Kay Magnier – 1st Anniversary  
Gerry McCarthy – Anniversary  
Joe McCormick – Recently Deceased  
Anne Scully – 1st Anniversary  
Mass for Family & Friends of Seamus Gibbons  
Anne O'Donoghue – Birthday Remembrance  
Seamus Rutherford – Anniversary

Mon 13th Dec 9.15a.m.

Tues 14th Dec 9.15a.m.

Wed 15th Dec 9.15a.m.

Thurs 16th Dec 9.15a.m.

Fri 17th Dec 9.15a.m.

#### Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

Sun. 12th Dec.

Wed. 15th Dec.

Sun. 19th Dec.

Maura Barry – First Anniversary  
Ethel Maguire – Anniversary  
Patrick Caul (Fago) - Anniversary  
Gerry Moloney (Month's Mind))