

he makes some very worthwhile and insightful points. He says the following:

"The focus of Lent is not on what we give up but on what we are given. We focus our minds on the self-giving love of Jesus which we will celebrate in Holy Week. We allow ourselves believe in this love. Often it is difficult to believe in the tender love of God. This conquers all else in the world; it is given in the mercy and compassion of God."

Father Donal adds:

"Lent pours the grace of forgiveness into our world, needed individually and as a people. We need to know that God is bigger than any of our sins, wars, violence and hatred."

Lent is certainly about reaching out to other people and helping those in need. Cardinal John Henry Newman, who was beatified by Pope Benedict in 2010, said:

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission I may never know it in this life but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good - I shall do His work."

I think that this is a challenge for us all to reflect on during the coming six weeks of Lent as we ask ourselves how best we can answer the call of Jesus in our Gospel today for repentance and faith. He also assures us that *"the kingdom of God is close at hand"*, so we can trust with confidence in his divine presence to assist us and to be with us at every step of our life's journey.

I will conclude with a prayer that Father Kieran O'Mahony has written which reminds us of the hope of Easter to come:

"God of new life, bless us on our pilgrim way towards the great feast of Easter. Help us to know our need of your presence, breathe your Spirit into our reading of the Word, teach us to set aside whatever hinders our true discipleship so that we may come to life in abundance and know in our hearts the joy of the Gospel. Amen."

I wish you all a prayerful, reflective and peaceful Lenten season.

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,
The Thatch Road, Dublin 9. Tel (01) 837 5274 Website: www.whitehall.dublindioocese.ie.

***"Repent and believe
the Good News."***

18th February 2018

Today is the first Sunday of Lent and our Gospel is about Jesus being tempted in the desert.

Father Kieran O'Mahony tells us about this Gospel reading:

"The accounts of the temptation of Jesus are found in the first three Gospels. The version in Mark [which we read today] is the shortest and both Matthew and Luke offer an expanded conversation."

The time that Jesus spent in the desert reminds of our own need for prayer and reflection during Lent. Thomas Merton said: *"We all need enough silence and solitude in our lives to enable the deep inner voice of our true self to be heard at least occasionally."*

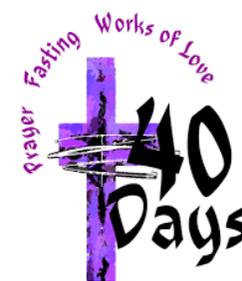
As we commence the Season of Lent, it is really important that we

give ourselves the time and space in the coming weeks to reflect on the love of Jesus for each and every one of us. This will allow us to respond, in our different circumstances, to the words of Jesus today:

"The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

The word Lent is derived from an old English word for spring. You will have noticed the new life of spring literally breaking through in the countryside and in our parks in recent weeks. Pope Leo the Great once said, *"Jesus is the hand of God's mercy stretched out towards us"*. Let us embrace this mercy during the coming Lenten season.

Father Donal Neary has written a lovely reflection on Lent where





**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO
LOURDES**

7th -12th September 2018

Hotel Solitude ****

5 Nights – Full Board

Fully Inclusive Price €739

In conjunction with the
Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage
(single room subject to
confirmation – supplement €175)
To book please contact Anne in the
Parish Office Tel: 8375274



We welcome in Baptism:

Luke Paul Kelly

Cáden Liam Murphy

Noah Jack Bailham

BAPTISM James Gallagher

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

The **Annual Collection of ACCORD**,
The Diocesan Agency for Marriage & the
Family, will be made at all Masses this week-
end 17th & 18th Feb. It will replace the usual
SHARE Collection.

**Holy Child Diamond Jubilee & Holy Child
National Schools 75th Anniversary.** To mark
both these occasions Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin will join us as
Celebrant at the 12.30p.m. Family Mass next
Sunday 25th February 2018. All welcome
light refreshments will be served after Mass.

Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in
your Prayers:

**Seán MacGabhann,
James Campbell,
Louis Cottell, Paul Dillon
Jimmy Kelly Angela O'Hare**

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



**Whitehall, Beaumont
& St. Luke's Kilmore West**

are hosting a series of talks centred on
the 'Family of God' in preparation for
the World Meeting of Families (WMOF)
in August 2018. All parishioners & their
friends are very welcome.

Each evening will commence with a
presentation, with a break for tea/coffee
followed by time for discussion and
questions.

**Wednesday 21st February,
Whitehall Parish Centre at 7.30p.m.**

Fr. Robert Whiteside

Theme: Preparing to Minister to
Families

**Wednesday 14th March
Beaumont Church at 7.30p.m.**

Fr. Pat Collins

Theme: The importance of Family
Prayer – Some Suggestions

**Wednesday, 21st March
St. Luke's Church at 7.30p.m.**

Speaker to be confirmed

For further details & information
contact Noreen O'Prey

Holy Child National School,
Larkhill Road, is accepting applications
for enrolment in Junior Infant classes for
September 2018.

Enrolment forms are available to
download from their website
www.holychildns.ie. You can return the
form by post, or you can call to the
school office any school day between
9am and 3pm to pick up a form or drop
one in.

For further information, please contact
the office on 01 8375870 during school
hours. Closing date for receipt of
applications is Wednesday, 28th
February 2018.



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 10 12 23 24 2nd Jackpot: 5 6 12 25

No Jackpot Winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: M. Noone: M. Hogan: J. Murphy:
M. McDermott: P. Mullen: P. Moore: M. Rowe.

Next Week's Lotto: First Jackpot **€2,750** Second Jackpot **€300**

Plus Seven Consolation Prizes of €25

Registering to attend the World Meeting of Families
Pope Francis personally chose Ireland to host this event. If
you would like to attend all or part of it you can
register now for the three-day Pastoral Congress through
website at www.worldmeeting2018.ie. Places for the
Congress are limited and guarantee a ticket for the
Festival of Families and the Final Mass which are
expected to be led by Pope Francis. Although there will
be no charge for any event led by the Pope, tickets for the
Festival of Families will be very limited and not released
until a later date, along with tickets for the Final Mass.

**Third National
Collection for World
Meeting of
Families**

This collection will take
place at all
Masses next weekend
24th – 25th February
It will replace the usual
SHARE collection .

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Church of the Holy Child

Monday 19th Feb.	9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.	Available for Intention
Tuesday 20th Feb.	9.15a.m.	Special Intention
	7.00p.m.	Vincent Cooney (Anniversary)
Wednesday 21st Feb.	9.15a.m.	Available for Intention
	7.00p.m.	May Cooley (Anniversary)
Thursday 22nd Feb.	9.15a.m.	Annie Brennan (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Special Intention
Friday 23rd Feb.	9.15a.m.	Kathleen Kelly (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Michael Foye (Anniversary)
Saturday 24th Feb.	10.00a.m.	Brendan Hickey (Month's Mind)
Vigil	7.00p.m.	Dennis Spierin, Frances & Teresa Harding Ann Hockley (Anniversaries)
Sunday 25th Feb.	11.15a.m.	People of the Parish
	12.30p.m.	Bridie Williams (Month's Mind) Kathleen Smith & Mary Moriarty, James Domican, Siobhán & Pat McSweeney (Anniversaries)
	6.00p.m.	Brendan & Louisa Hynes (Anniversaries)

Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

Wednesday 21st Feb.	10.00a.m.	Marriana Besagni (Anniversary)
Sunday 25th Feb.	10.00a.m.	Statia Wilson (Anniversary)