

"witness that he is the Chosen One of God."

The purpose of our Gospel from St. John today is to provide us with a first-hand account of John the Baptist's experience of meeting Jesus.

And he makes a pretty powerful and convincing case. Throughout the Gospels, people are converted when they encounter Jesus. And it was no different for John the Baptist. He was convinced by what he saw.

Jesus says elsewhere in St John's Gospel:

"Blessed are those who have not seen but yet believe" (John 20:29).

In saying this, Jesus gives a new Beatitude for those of us who have faith without having had the privilege of actually meeting Jesus as the apostles did. There is, in a way, a greater blessing for those who believe because of faith alone. These words speak directly to the faith of succeeding generations, including ourselves.

Our faith can never simply or exclusively be a private matter. As Christians, our challenge is to reach out to others. John the Baptist showed people the way to Jesus. He encouraged people to follow him. We have a similar task in our own lives. That is to show Jesus to those we meet in the different circumstances of our lives. This is, of course, more easily said than done. But even small gestures and words of encouragement can make a real difference in people's lives.

The poet Patrick Kavanagh said that *"God is in the bits and pieces of life"* and Saints like St. Therese of Lisieux encouraged us to do the smaller things well. Usually, the Christian way of life is not about big grand gestures but simple encounters with ordinary people in ordinary circumstances when we may have an opportunity to let the light of Christ shine a bit more brightly. God's grace can help lead us to these moments and he will always make up for what may be lacking in our response.

Let us pray that in the coming days we may, like John the Baptist, be a source of life and a source of life to others. Jesus said: *"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."* (John 10:10). May this be so not just for ourselves but for those we encounter in the week ahead.

Gerard Reilly - 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.

"Look, there is the Lamb of God"

19th January 2020

The opening line of today's Gospel has found its way into the prayers of our mass which we say not once or twice but three times every time mass is celebrated.

We say:

*"Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us,
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace."*

Sometimes people say that in our busy, modern world that we over complicate things. That we over think and make things more difficult or challenging than in fact they are. But here we have an example of the exact opposite. John the Baptist tells us very simply that Jesus, as the Lamb of God, takes away our sins. What a wonderful moment of revelation. What an amazing insight. It's all we never really need to hear. Jesus forgives us and we should do the same for others. This is the first thing that John the Baptist tells us about Jesus and it is also the most



important. Like the news headlines, he gives us the most important piece of news first.

The Lamb of God also features in the apparition at Knock, 141 years ago back in 1879. The Lamb of God appears on the Altar, along with Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John. The Cistercian writer, Father Berchmans Walsh, said that Knock is the only holy apparition known to him in the world where the Lamb of God appears.

Our Gospel today also provides us with a wonderful testimony from John the Baptist about Jesus.

He says:

"I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him."

It's an extraordinary personal statement from John giving direct evidence that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit after his baptism. John describes himself as a

Parish Lotto

Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were: 1st Jackpot: 1 6 12 26
2nd Jackpot: 5 8 15 30 No Jackpot winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: B. Coonan; S. English;
T. Watkins; F. Burke; L. Whyte; M. Doran; A. Flanagan.

Next Week's Lotto Draw: First Jackpot €15,000 Second Jackpot €700
Plus 7 consolation prizes of €25



Our Thanks – The Priests of the Parish wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks all, who have forwarded Christmas dues. If you wish to receive an individual acknowledgement please contact the Parish Office.

Liturgy Team – next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020 at 7.30p.m. in the Parish Centre

Catholic Schools Week 2020 26th Jan. to 2nd Feb. 2020: This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Living in harmony with God's - Creation- God, neighbours, all generations, Earth, and our Catholic school.

Holy Communion is available to all communicants under both kinds at the Main Altar, Priest's Chair side.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
We are invited to join Rev. Canon David Oxley and his community in St. Pappan's Church of Ireland on Thursday 23rd at 11.00a.m. to pray for unity of Churches. All are welcome.

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

Carmel Young
Emmet Memery

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



Church Collections

<u>6/1/20</u>	
1st Collection	€901
SHARE	€820
<u>12/1/20</u>	
1st collection	€1,694
SHARE	€1,145
Family Envelope	€1,015

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity.

Holy Child National School

Enrolments are now taking place for September 2020 for Junior Infants in Holy Child National School. Closing date for enrolments is 31st January 2020. Please call to the school for an enrolment form or download one from their website www.holychildns.ie Holy Child National School are having an Open Evening on Thursday, 30th January 2020 from 7p.m. – 8.30p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Laudate Festival:

This Festival will be held during Catholic Schools Week in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Rd., on Tuesday 28th January at 7.00p.m. to 8.15p.m. A large choir of children from schools in the diocese will lead in song and prayer. The festival nights are joyful and reflective gatherings celebrating the gift of faith.

Mass Intentions from the 18th January

Church of the Holy Child

Sat. 18th Jan. Vigil 7.00p.m.	Nora Reid – 1st Anniversary Margaret (Rita) Cloake – R.I.P. Ethel Smith – Anniversary Bridie Goggin, Bridie Williams – Anniversaries Kathleen & Patrick Maples – Anniversaries Mary Elizabeth Crowley – Anniversary Derek O'Connor – Anniversary
Sun. 19th Jan. 11.15a.m.	Rose Fannin – Anniversary & deceased members of O'Hara Family, Michael Cushnahan – Anniversary
12.30p.m.	Noel O'Reilly, Andrew Kevin Rogan – Anniversaries Collette O'Carroll – Anniversary
6.00p.m.	Patrick Hannigan, Robert, Josephine Redmond – Anniv.
Mon. 20th Jan. 9.15a.m.	Noreen Hosty – R. I. P. Peter & Delia Brennan – Anniversaries
Tues. 21st Jan. 9.15a.m.	Liam & Vera Doyle – Anniversaries
7.00p.m.	John Bacon – Month's Mind
Wed. 22nd Jan 9.15a.m.	James Keogh & Mary McNulty – Anniversaries
Thurs. 23rd 7.00p.m.	Special Intention
Sat. 25th Jan. 7.00p.m.	John Yule – 1st Anniversary Eileen Sinnott – 1st Anniversary Peter Farrell – 1st Anniversary Mr. & Mrs Crean & Bernadette Crean – Anniversaries
Sun. 26th Jan. 11.15a.m.	Jimmy Kane, Annie Smith – Anniversaries Robert Halpin, Peggy Kenny – Anniversaries
Sun. 19th Jan. & Wed. 22nd Jan.	No Intention
Sun. 26th Jan. 10.00a.m.	Helena Foran – Month's Mind Michael & Kathleen Mulhall – Anniversaries Patrick & Michelle O'Toole – Anniversaries Agnes Murphy, Patricia Curtis – Anniversaries Linda Curtis – Birthday Remembrance

Study Theology Online – Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. – Flexible Accessible Courses! Register Now for Spring 2020. The cut off date for registration is 4th February. Students can choose between two Stage One modules on offer this semester; Scripture and Philosophy. Further info. Tel: 01 404 8124 or email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com Website: www.prioryinstitute.com

Mercy Centre, St. Brendan's Drive, Coolock, Dublin 5
An Oasis for Body, Mind and Soul Programme for Spring 2020 now available.

World Day of the Sick Mass will take place on Sun. 9th February in the Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Ave., Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Theme: *Hope in the Face of Suicide* Further information Tel: Trish 087 6220349