

scripture, that he must rise from the dead.” Pope Francis recently elevated the celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to a full feast day similar to that of the twelve apostles.

The Vatican said at the time: *“Saint John Paul II paid great attention to the particular role of Saint Mary Magdalene as the first witness who saw the risen Christ, and as the first messenger who announced the Lord’s resurrection to the Apostles.”*

Saint Mary Magdalene’s role on the first Easter Sunday morning made her the first witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Season of Easter lasts for fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost and is slightly longer than the Season of Lent which has just concluded. In the coming weeks, let us celebrate and share our Easter joy with those we meet who may be in need of inspiration and encouragement.

In a recent article Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: *“Today there are many people who humbly believe, suffer and love, in whom the real God, the loving God, shows Himself to us. Today God also has His witnesses in the world. We just have to be vigilant in order to see and hear them.”*

Speaking about the times we live in, he goes on to say: *“If we look around and listen with an attentive heart, we can find witnesses everywhere today, especially among ordinary people... to see and find the living Church is a wonderful task which strengthens us and makes us joyful in our faith time and again.”*

Let us reflect on these insightful words of Pope Benedict over the Easter holidays and what they mean in the circumstances of our own lives. Our Easter joy is based on the fact that we believe that the risen Lord, who stood among his disciples on that first Easter morning, also stands among us today. I would like to wish you, your families, friends and neighbours a very happy and peaceful Easter.

*Gerard Reilly is a Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes.*



**Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019 Wed. 4th – Mon. 9th Sept.**  
**Hotel Solitude \*\*\*\* 5 Nights Full Board Fully Inclusive Price €759 per person sharing. (single room €180 supplement)**  
**In conjunction with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage.**  
**To book please contact Anne in the Parish Office Tel: 8375274**

## 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).

*“Saint Mary Magdalene’s role on the first Easter Sunday morning made her the first witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”*

**21st April 2019**

Easter offers hope to all who are oppressed, broken and hopeless. God’s grace and mercy can bring new life into any situation no matter how difficult it may seem.

Easter encourages us to make new beginnings, to turn over the page and to break out in new directions. Blessed John Henry Newman said “to live is to change” and this time of Springtime, encourages us to turn over a new leaf and to start afresh.

We are also called, I think, to share our Easter joy with those in need. Jesus said “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.” Our calling is to inspire others so that they in their turn can put their gifts and talents at the service of those in need in our community.

In our Gospel today, we are told about the dramatic discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala.

When she made her way to the tomb on that first Easter morning, she was doing so in order to complete the Jewish burial customs. And, initially, she did not realise that Jesus had risen from the dead.

We are told that: *Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb’ she said ‘and we don’t know where they have put him.’*

She has been called the “apostle to the apostles” as it was her role to tell St Peter and the other apostles about Jesus Christ rising from the dead. Both apostles then arrived at the tomb and St John (speaking about himself) said:

*“He saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of*

**Easter 2019**

*"Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!"*

This opening line of the Easter proclamation, the *Exultet*, is sung at the Easter Vigil, just as all the lights are turned back on after the Paschal candle has been carried into a pitch-dark church. It calls on all of creation, and especially all of us, to join with the choirs of heaven in rejoicing because Jesus Christ in the Resurrection has overcome all that is dark, all that is destructive, all that brings death rather than life.

Our Irish church has lived through a period of darkness, the extent of which we have only gradually discovered. Our nation has struggled through periods of economic and social darkness and although economists tell us we're in a time of economic recovery and expansion many individuals and families in our communities don't experience this recovery especially those who despite having money in their pockets have no roof, or at least no permanent roof over their heads.

Since coming to the parish last September I've experienced how the deaths of family members of all ages have insinuated a previously unimagined darkness into the life of many parishioners and challenged people's faith in the God of love and life and light. Other families struggle with the darkness of the illness of family members, some of whom are sick in body, mind or spirit. Some families experience the absence of those who had to leave for work and who now permanently reside abroad. Wherever you are in your own individual or family life at present Jesus Christ deeply desires to be the light of your life. In our parish we wish to be able to be and do all we can to walk with you on your pilgrim journey. As a community we also need you to walk with us as witnesses to faith and hope and love. May the light of the Risen Christ shine brightly in your life and the lives of your loved ones this Easter. *"May Christ, the Morning Star who came back from the dead shed his light on all humankind."* (Exultet) Happy Easter from the Parish Team to all parishioners, your families and all who read this Easter message. Many thanks to all our parish staff, ministers and volunteers. *Canon John*

**We welcome in Baptism:  
Alfie Jack Redmond**

*We pray that this newly baptised child will always know and love Jesus as his friend.*



**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers **James Brennan  
Bernadette Brannigan  
Catherine (Kay) Bruton**



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

**Divine Mercy Sunday 28th April:**

**Pilgrimage to Knock** – From Church of the Holy Child Whitehall at 8.00a.m.  
Contact Marie McAllister Ph. 01 842 5678.

**The Easter Garden** - Have you

seen the beautiful Easter Garden in the Church of the Holy Child? It will be in place until Pentecost so don't forget to visit and say a little prayer. It is located at the top left hand side of the Church. Many thanks to all who donated flowers and a special thanks to Dorothy Gray who created the prayerful space.



**Please Support your Parish Lotto**

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 2 10 17 21      2nd Jackpot: 7 16 22 27

No Jackpot winner. The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were:

M. O'Connell; S. Reid; C. Holden; P. Casey;  
T. Purdue; J. McGeogh; R. Kelly.

No Lotto Next Week

Next Lotto 30th April 2019 – First Jackpot €15,000

Second Jackpot €750

Plus 7 Consolation Prizes of €25



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

Mon. 22nd April	10.00a.m.	Anthony Keegan, Mary McDermott (Anniversaries)
Tues. 23rd April	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Wed. 24th April	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Thurs. 25th April	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Fri. 26th April	10.00a.m.	Dominic O'Brien (Anniversary)
*22nd April to 26th April	Mass at 10.00a.m.	No Evening Mass
Sat. 27th April	10.00a.m.	Christopher Rafferty (Anniversary)
	Vigil 7.00p.m.	Tom Kennedy (Month's Mind)
		Mona O'Donoughue (1st Anniversary)
		Timothy O'Sullivan, John Joyce (Anniversaries)
		Kay & Tom Smith (Anniversaries)
		Annie Pierce (Anniversary)
		Gerry Curley (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun. 28th April	11.15a.m.	People of the Parish (Anniversary)
	12.30p.m.	Elaine Wolfe (1st Anniv.)
		Danny & Doris Birney (Annivs.)
		Christina Traynor (Anniversary)
	6.00p.m.	Available for Intention
		<u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u>
Wed. 24th April	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Sun. 28th April	10.00a.m.	Laura Nelson, Gráinne Dooley (Anniversaries)
		Anthony Fry, O'Callaghan & Riordan Families (Annivs.)

**Young People – Faithfest Retreat:** Have you been to Faithfest? Are you in Secondary School? If so, you are eligible for and will love the Faithfest Retreat. It is a chance to build friendships, enjoy adventure and get to know God. Ovoca Manor is venue which combines adventure & exploring faith. Please download & fill in consent form [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie) & return it to address.

Church Collections 14-04-2019

1st Collection	€1,801
Share	€1,520
Family Envelope	€895
Sincere thanks for your continued generosity	

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

