

priest.

Following the Second Vatican Council, Blessed Paul VI – as part of a wider renewal of ministry in the Church – restored the Permanent Diaconate in the Western Church. In the years following the Council, the Permanent Diaconate has become well established in many countries including Canada, the UK, the United States and, more recently, here in Ireland. Blessed Paul VI described the Diaconate as:

*“A driving force for the church’s service and a sign of the Lord himself who came not to be served but to serve.”*

A typical month for me would consist of assisting at the Sunday liturgies, preaching a homily usually once a month, celebrating baptisms once or twice a month, meeting couples who are preparing for marriage. I also coordinate our parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team. I am also a member of our Parish Pastoral Council and assist the parish priest with other duties as required. I personally do very few funerals as I am mostly at work in the city centre when they are taking place.

A Permanent Deacon has dual roles both as an ordained minister and also someone who is active in the workplace and in family life. I would also say that the support of my wife Beatrice and my extended family particularly my brother and father-in-law (retired Whitehall sacristan Des Ward) has been of immense importance to me.

The restoration of the Permanent Diaconate is a great sign of hope and renewal in the Church as we begin to slowly emerge from a very difficult period. There are 44,566 permanent deacons worldwide according to the latest Vatican statistics. Currently, there are 46 Permanent Deacons in eight dioceses in Ireland with others in formation.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin sums up the role of Deacons well in the following words:

*“The mission of a Deacon is a mission of leading others to deepen their understanding of the Word of God and to live that Word as a form of service to others so that they can find hope and meaning in their lives through encountering Jesus Christ.”*

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

### *“Deacons in Scripture and their Ministry Today”*

The First Reading last Sunday from the Acts of the Apostles includes the first reference to Deacons in the New Testament.

As the early Church was expanding, it seems that certain jobs such as looking after the less well-off members of the community were being neglected. The Apostles decided that they needed some extra help. We are told that: “You, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom and [we will] continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.”

They were successful getting volunteers. Scripture does not tell us what became of all the members of this group but it seems that Stephen was the first martyr later referred to in Acts 6:8 and the Deacon Philip was likely the same person who was involved in the baptism of the Egyptian Chief Treasurer which is

**21st May 2017**

explained to us in Acts 8: 26-40.

We can say that Deacons first emerged in the Church at a time of great need when the existing ministers were struggling with the demands that were being placed on them. And, although we live in very different times now, the need for people to take on ministries in the church are as great as ever.

Deacons represent only one part of a much larger collaboration of ministries that are part of our Church today including priests, sisters, catechists, pastoral workers, youth workers and other committed lay people.

The Diaconate took on a distinctive role with different duties from Bishops and Priests in the First Millennium. It became particularly associated with proclaiming and preaching the Word of God, assisting at the Altar and engaging in the ministry of charity. In later centuries, the principal functions of the diaconate were gradually absorbed into the ministry of the



**Eternal City, Rome**

Thurs 28th Sep –Tues 3rd Oct 2017  
Mgr. John Fitzpatrick will lead our tour to Rome  
Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3\* is centrally located in Rome about 10 mins walk from St. Peters. Price €799.00 per person sharing B & B. For more information and to book please contact Anne in the Parish Office. Tel: 01 8375274. Booking subject to availability.



**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

7th -12th September 2017  
**Hotel Solitude \*\*\*\***  
5 Nights – Full Board  
Fully Inclusive Price €725

Spiritual Director Rev. Tom Kearney  
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

Blessing for Expectant Mothers will take place on Thursday 25th May at 8.00p.m. in Our Lady of Mercy Church, Brookwood Grove, Artane.

**Parish Pastoral Collection** – This important Parish collection will take place **THIS weekend 20th/21st May**. The money we receive goes towards the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It ensures that each Team can be resourced and trained and therefore can give the best service to their ministry. **Could those who have agreed to help with this collection please come to the Sacristy before Mass this weekend and collect a basket. Many thanks for your continued help with this important Parish Collection.**

**We welcome in Baptism:**

Leah Heerey



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

**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers:  
Pat Berry  
Annie Burke



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

**EXAM MASS**

The Exam Mass will be celebrated next **Sunday 28th May at 12.30pm in the Church of the Holy Child**. This is the normal 12.30pm Family Mass with special emphasis on those doing exams, especially the Junior and Leaving Cert. During this Mass students will be invited to light a candle and place it before the Altar and then in turn write their name on a piece of paper and place it in the basket in front of the Altar. The basket will remain there for all Masses during the month of June as a practical and prayerful way of remembering our young people during the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams please feel free to place their names in the basket. If any young person would be willing to help us with the lighting of candles at this Mass please come a little early and speak with a member of the Family Mass Team.

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

Monday 22nd May	9.15a.m.	Billy Carrick (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Gladys Moore (R.I.P.)
Tuesday 23rd May	9.15a.m.	Michael Comiskey (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Available for Intention
Wednesday 24th May	9.15a.m.	Kitty & Mary Costello (Anniversaries)
	7.00p.m.	Available for Intention
Thursday 25th May	9.15a.m.	Kitty & Mary Costello (Anniversaries)
	7.00p.m.	Paul Towell (Birthday Remembrance)
		Pauline Power (Anniversary)
Friday 26th May	9.15a.m.	Fr. Raymond Comiskey (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Tom & Teresa Daly (Anniversary)
Saturday 27th May	10.00a.m.	Available for intention
	Vigil 7.00p.m.	Mary Pierce (Month's Mind))
Sunday 28th May	11.15a.m.	People of the Parish
	12.30p.m.	Terence McSweeney (R.I.P.)
		Jimmy Coleman, Gerard & Carmel Bailey, & Thomas Holland (Anniversaries)
	6.00p.m.	Available for Intention
		<b>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</b>
Wednesday 24th May	10.00a.m.	Doris Curtis (Anniversary)
Sunday 28th May	10.00a.m.	Seán Devine, Liam Keegan, Teresita, Celedonio, Frederick & Nino Calaguin (Anniversaries)

**LOTTO**

**Please Support your Parish Lotto**

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:  
1st Jackpot: 6 17 25 26 2nd Jackpot: 12 15 18 29  
There was no Jackpot winner. The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: A. Hackett: P. Moore: B. Campbell: M. Dolan: M. McDermott: N. Smith: J. Smith.  
**Next Draw: 1st Jackpot €7,750 2nd Jackpot €2,000 Plus seven consolation prizes of €25**



**Thanks** - A heartfelt thank you to all who donated to **'Help Us Dry Tears' Divine Mercy in Action Coffee Morning and Raffle** on Thursday 11th May in Holy Child Parish Centre. You helped to raise €1,500 for the kiddies.

**Come & Pray:** Annual Gathering of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist in Clonliffe Church on Mon. 29th May 8p.m. This will be an opportunity to pray, reflect and sing together as we give thanks for the grace of this important ministry. Music led by Dublin Diocesan Music Group. Please contact Gráinne 01 8087554 if you wish to attend.

**Fruits of the Spirit: Prepare for Pentecost** – Prayer Service on the Fruits of the Spirit will take place in the beautiful Chapel of the Monastery of St. Alphonsus, St. Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra. Monday 22nd May at 8p.m. Music led by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group in this imaginative & reflective experience.