

have our model. She who received the most precious gift from God, as her immediate response, sets off to be of service [to others] and to bring Jesus [to them].

Let us ask for Our Lady's to help us too to give Christ's joy to our families, our companions, our friends, to everyone we meet over the Christmas holidays. I know that for many of you this Christmas may be tinged with sadness as you remember a loved one who has gone home to God as has been the case with our family in the past year. May they rest in peace. Or you may look back on past Christmas's when a relative or friend who joined you around the Christmas table then is not with us today perhaps because they may have emigrated. And while technology is fantastic, Skype or Facetime are not the same as having someone present. You can also view our church services this Christmas from the webcam on our parish website at <http://www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie/live-services/>

Whatever our circumstances this Christmas, I hope that you will have some time to relax and reflect on God's mercy, forgiveness and love. And, in particular, the gift of his Son Jesus to us at this very special time of the year. If you have time, it's a lovely tradition to visit the crib and perhaps say a prayer like this one: *"Hail and Blessed be the hour and moment when the Son of God was born to the most pure Virgin Mary at midnight in the stable at Bethlehem in the piercing cold. In that same hour and moment, vouchsafe, Oh my God, to hear my prayer and grant my request. Amen."*

I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes

## Parish Lotto

Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were: 1st Jackpot: 1 3 12 25

2nd Jackpot: 5 7 13 25 No Jackpot winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: J. Crowley; T. Madden; S. Keegan; T. Walsh; P. Chapman; M. Kelly; F. Keenan.

Next Week's Lotto Draw: First Jackpot €15,000 Second Jackpot €600

Plus 7 consolation prizes of €25 Next Lotto 7th January 2020.

*Christmas Blessings* The Newsletter editorial team would like to wish all their readers a very Happy Christmas. May the blessings and joy of this Christmas season be with you now and throughout the coming year. The next Newsletter will be available on the 5th January 2020.



## 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).

### The Gift of God's Son, Jesus

As we gather for Mass on this Christmas week, we give thanks to God for the gift of his Son Jesus to us. Christmas is not an event that was frozen in the history of 2,000 years ago but is for Christians, the continuing, dynamic and living presence of Christ amongst us which affects the lives of millions of Christians in our world today. And one of the great strengths of our faith is that this day is celebrated by Christians in many different countries and cultures.

Speaking in the Millennium year, Pope John Paul II said the following about Christmas: *"Today we celebrate the mystery of Bethlehem, the mystery of an incomparable night which is, in a sense, within time and beyond time. From the Virgin's womb was born a Child, a manger became the cradle of immortal Life. Christmas is the festival of life, because Jesus, [was] born like all of us."*

Christ who was born of Mary in Bethlehem wants to be born in all our lives. We can really celebrate Christmas well when we show the face of Christ to each other, when God's love becomes real in our own

22nd December 2019

lives as it became flesh in Jesus. We remember with gratitude today all those who have shown the face of Christ to us and we pray that our own relationships with Christ will deepen during this Christmas time.

The birth stories about Jesus are found only in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. In the birth of Jesus, we see our God made visible. The thrilling reality of the Word made flesh is both gift and call. We are challenged to love the God we cannot see in the neighbour we can see. There can be no separation of these two realities: to love God is to love your neighbour and to love your neighbour is to love God. The heart of the Christmas proclamation is here in this reading and we should listen as if we were hearing it for the first time.

Pope Francis tells us that on receiving the grace of being the Mother of the Incarnate Word, Mary did not keep that gift to herself; she set off from her home and went in haste to help her kinswoman Elizabeth, who was in need of assistance (cf. Lk 1:38-39). Here we

**Arrangements for Christmas 2019**

**Holy Child**



**Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - 9.15a.m.  
7.00 p.m. Mass of Christmas for Children and Families  
9.00 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

**Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00 a.m., 11.15 a.m., 12.30 p.m.  
No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

**St. Stephen's Day – Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00 a.m.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December** - 10.00am.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December** – 10.00a.m. & 7.00p.m (Vigil)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December** - 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m., 6.00p.m.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January** - 10.00 a.m.

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** – 9.15a.m. and 7.00p.m.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – 10.00am & 7.00p.m.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January** - 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m. and 6.00p.m.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January Feast of the Epiphany**- 9.15a.m., 11.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.

**INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION - Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

After 10.00a.m. Mass until 12.00noon

**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**

**Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

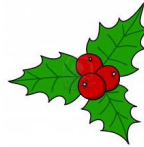
6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas Eve for Children and Families  
8.30 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

**Christmas Day -Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00a.m. Mass

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00a.m. Mass

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January** - 10.00a.m. Mass

**Feast of the Epiphany – Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00 a.m. Mass



**We welcome in Baptism:**  
**Killian William McMahon**  
**Éanna Gerard Regan,**  
**Violet Rose McConkey**  
**Arianna Bianca Ceccarelli**  
**Amelia Rose Hartman**

*We pray that these newly baptised children will always know and love Jesus as their friend.*



**Christmas Crib** - Don't forget to visit our beautiful crib and say a little prayer there with wonder and awe at the birth of Our Saviour. It is situated at the top left hand side of the Church.



**Parish Christmas Tree** – If you have a family member who is unable to be with you for Christmas you can write their names on the tags provided and hang them on the tree as a way of remembering them.



**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers: **Martha Carrigan**  
**Elizabeth Teresa Ward**  
*May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.*



**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.

**Mass Intentions from the 21st December**

**Church of the Holy Child**

Sat. 21st Dec. Vigil	7.00p.m.	Rita Phelan – Month's Mind. Liam Bollard, Mary & James Sullivan – Anniversaries Tommy & Monica O'Connor – Anniversaries Annie Gibbons, Sheila Farrington – Anniversaries Gerry Curley, Nora O'Hanlon – Christmas Remembrance
Sun. 22nd Dec.	11.15a.m. 12.30p.m.	Elizabeth Goggins, John & Anne Madden – Anniversaries Gerry & Pauline O'Farrell – Anniversaries Tony Marmion, Catherine & Michael McLoughlin – Anniv. Mai Briscoe – Anniversary Dorrie Farrell – Remembrance R. I. P.
Mon. 23rd Dec.	9.15a.m. 7.00p.m.	Deceased Members of the Tully Family – R. I. P. Richard Ormsby & Mona O'Brien – Anniversaries Jimmy Halpin, Frances Murphy – Anniversaries
Tues. 24th Dec.	9.15a.m.	Pat Kilgallon – Birthday Remembrance
Sat. 28th Dec. Vigil	10.00a.m. 7.00p.m.	Special Intention Peggy & Tommie Nolan, Charlie Mongey – Anniversaries Peggy McCaul – Anniversary
Sun. 29th Dec.	11.15a.m.	Brendan Mulvey – 1st Anniversary Brian Byrne – Anniversary
Tues. 31st Dec.	10.00a.m.	Mandy McDonagh Farrell – Anniversary Thanksgiving

**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**

Sun. 22nd Dec.	10.00a.m.	Fr. Bernard Collier, Patrick (Patsy) Caul (Anniversaries) Patrick & Eileen McElroy (Anniversaries)
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**The Parish Pastoral Collection** will take place this weekend 21st/22nd December. The money we receive goes to the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams in our Parish. Could those who have agreed to help with this collection please come to the Sacristy before Mass and collect a basket? Our sincere thanks for your continued help.

**Eucharistic Adoration Christmas Arrangements**  
There will be no Eucharistic Adoration from Tuesday 24th December to Wednesday 1st January inclusive. Normal Adoration schedule will resume on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

**Church Collections**

**Sunday 15th December**

1st Collection	€1,898
SHARE	€1,710
Family Envelope	€935

**Society of the St. Vincent de Paul**

The local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wish to sincerely thank all who contributed to their recent Annual Christmas Appeal. The amount collected was €11,248. This will be greatly appreciated by local families who find it difficult to cope financially at Christmas and during the year. Thank you once again.