

being cured and walked on amazed. Others saw the same cures and found faith. We can see things – everyday things – with different eyes. A sick woman may be seen with the eye of compassion for illness, hope for a cure or profit from a profession. The Christian tries to see the world with the eye of faith.”

Pope Francis often refers to the compassion and mercy of God: *“There is no sin or crime that can erase us from the mind and heart of God.”* He went on to say that: *“God remembers, he never forgets any one of those he has created. God is a loving Father, one who wants to save, not condemn people.”*

He concluded his remarks by saying: *“I tell you that if you have a great weight on your conscience, if you are ashamed of what you have done, then stop and reflect on this: God has never ceased to remember you!”*

Let us remember that, like the man born blind, we all have need for conversion in certain parts of our lives. Let us pray for the grace this Lent that Jesus will help us to heal those parts of our lives where we can do a bit better. He encourages us to come out of the cave where we may hide due to indifference and reach out to those in need where ever we may find them.

Lent is a good time of the year for reflection and perhaps to take stock, so that we can consider how we can become better Christian people with our lives more in tune with the heartbeat of the Gospel. Perhaps as a result of the Coronavirus, we may have more time for prayer and reflection in our lives. We can use this time productively by taking time to read a favourite scripture passage or spiritual book and see what God may be saying to us at this time. For those of you who have access the internet, I can recommend www.sacredspace.ie or www.goodnews.ie or www.catholicireland.net or www.knockshrine.ie All have very good material.

I hope that you all keep well as we pray for and support each other during this most challenging of times.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield parishes

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People -ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8a.m. –8p.m., by calling 0818 222 024. hours may be extended to meet the demand.

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.

“There is no sin or crime that can erase us from the mind and heart of God”

22nd March 2020

The season of Lent invites us to touch into our deeper longings for life, light, truth and joy. It causes us to look forward to the longer, brighter, sunnier days of the coming summer. These yearnings are ultimately a longing for God. St. Augustine said our hearts are restless until they rest in God. With God’s grace the darkness of sin and doubt will give way to the brightness of forgiveness and faith.

I think it is really important that we all take time out during Lent to come here and reflect on our faith and what God’s mercy and forgiveness means for us.

This Sunday’s Gospel is about the healing of a man who was born blind. It’s a lengthy discourse but we can see the different attitudes of the people in the gospel story. The man is very grateful for the healing and, in a moving scene towards the end of the reading, becomes a follower of Christ. We are told that:

“Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him,

‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you’. The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.”

To repent is to turn away from what is not of God and to turn towards what is of God. If the Lord is to grow within us, there will always be something that we have to turn away from or let go of. This Sunday we are invited to look at what might be in our lives that is blocking Christ from growing in us.

As we approach Easter, let us also make sure that we also enough time to reflect on the meaning of this great feast and the importance of God’s forgiveness and mercy in our lives. Then, when we come to celebrate this Easter, it will be a more meaningful occasion for us all.

When reflecting on this reading, Father Donal Neary says the following: *“Some saw a blind man*

MASS CANCELLATIONS

As we are only too well aware by now our world is facing an unprecedented health crisis posed by the coronavirus.

To manage the rate of increase and to adequately and effectively treat those who have the illness caused by the virus, drastic action had to be taken by all sectors of society. In a spirit of cooperation and concern for the wellbeing of others we have cancelled the Sunday Masses. With regret the weekday 9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m. Masses are also cancelled until further notice.

In the meantime, the priests of the parish will celebrate Mass each day at 9.15a.m. (when there is a Priest available) and Parishioners can watch via the Parish Webcam. They will offer the Mass for all 'booked' Mass intentions for that day. The Parish Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 11.15a.m. and is available via Parish Radio and Parish Webcam. This Mass will be offered for all Saturday and Sunday Mass Intentions in Holy Child and Blessed Margaret Ball.

The Wednesday and Sunday Masses in the Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball are also cancelled until further notice.

The Church of the Holy Child will be open for private prayer from 10.00a.m. – 12.00noon Monday to Friday.

This is an occasion for all of us – especially in families – to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness. We should pray also for those in the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy and those in retail – that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

PLEASE NOTE – Bethany Support Group

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group has cancelled their Wednesday meeting in the Parish Centre until further notice.

Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers: Elizabeth (Betty) Nolan
Phyllis Noone
Sean Brady
Joan Phelan



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

Liturgy Team – The next meeting of the Liturgy Team which was to take place on Wednesday, 25th March has been cancelled until further notice.

We pray for all recently baptised children

May they always know and love Jesus as their friend.



Mass Intentions – Church of the Holy Child

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| Saturday & Sunday | Mary Walsh – Anniversary |
| 21st/22nd March | Michael Ennis – Anniversary |
| | Ciaran Kelly – Anniversary |
| | Elizabeth & Frederick Gorman – Anniversaries |
| Monday 23rd | Thanksgiving |
| | Robert & Brigid Blennerhassett – Anniversaries |
| Tuesday 24th | Thomas Kelly – Remembrance |
| Thursday 26th | Special Intention |
| | Michael Brady – Anniversary |
| Saturday & Sunday | Charlie McGauley – Month's Mind |
| 28th/29th March | Pamela Edge – 1st Anniversary |
| | Charlie Mulvany, Margaret Vogelsang – Anniversaries |
| | Mary O'Connor, Joseph & Sheila Hanratty – Annivs. |
| | Stephen (Snr.) Kathleen & Stephen (Jnr) Kennedy – Anniversaries |
| | Niamh Oglesby – Anniversary |
| | Catherine (Kay) Mullen – Anniversary |
| | <u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u> |
| Sunday | June Besagni – Anniversary |
| 22nd March | Patrick & Elizabeth Foy – Anniversaries |
| 29th March | Anthony Fry – Birthday Remembrance |

Parish Lotto The Parish Lotto is suspended until further notice.



At this time we must still try to maintain our Churches so we would ask that parishioners who contribute via the family planned giving envelopes to please drop them into the safes in the Church when the Church is open between 10a.m. & 12noon. Also, this might be a time to consider donating by Direct Debit. Please contact the Parish Office and a form can be posted out to you. Tel: 01 8375274



There is also an on-line payment facility for the Common Fund and Share collections on the front page of the diocesan website. Click on "Donate".

Please Note: Parish Centre is closed until further notice due to Government instructions on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



*We wish all our Mothers a very Happy Mother's Day
We pray that the light of Christ will shine gently on them today & always*