

potter, the test of a man is in his conversation.”

When we meet people, we have an opportunity to influence them for the better or the worse. We might say a word of encouragement or perhaps of compassion. Or we might be abrupt with them and leave them with a bad impression of us. Of course, we could be in a hurry somewhere else and not have much time to stop but I think the reading is reminding us of the tremendous power of a smile or of a kind gesture. It is always important to be kind. We don't know what may be going on in their lives.

The Season of Lent begins next Wednesday March 2nd. The word Lent is derived from an old English word for spring. You will have noticed the new life of spring literally breaking through in the countryside and in our parks in recent weeks. It is great to see the daffodils again in our streets and gardens! In his message for Lent last year, Pope Francis tells us that:

“Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I).”

He adds:

“Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them.”

Let us pray that this Season of Lent will be a time of grace for us and an opportunity to reflect on the direction of our own lives. We can often spend a lot of time thinking about what we should “give up” which is, of course, a good thing but we should also consider what else we might *do* which could include allowing more time for prayer, attending mass (online or in person), visiting people who may not have many people crossing their door and helping others in practical ways such as contributing to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul or Trocaire.

Pope Leo the Great once said, *“Jesus is the hand of God's mercy stretched out towards us”*. Let us embrace this mercy during the coming Lenten season. I wish you all a peaceful, reflective and prayerful Lent.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Malahide and Portmarnock 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.

*“Keep on working at the
Lord's work always”*

27th February 2022

There is an almost comical quality to the beginning of our Gospel reading. The idea that someone could be going around with a plank in their eye and not be aware of it sounds more like something that you would expect to find on a comedy show rather than in the bible. Jesus is using deliberate exaggeration to make a serious point which is that we should be aware of our own shortcomings before criticising others.

When writing about today's Gospel the Augustinian writer, Father Kieran O'Mahony tells us that: *“This parable invites us to examine the motivation behind what we do. If our basic motivation is love, then our lives will bear good fruit. If love is absent from our lives then the fruits will be conflict, disharmony and abuse of people for our own selfish ends.”*

Our second reading today from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians tell us to *“keep on working at the Lord's work always,*

knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.”



This is a great call to action as we emerge from the pandemic and start to prepare for the Synod in

Rome next year. The challenge for us all is to use our gifts to share the Gospel message with others. If our lives are focused on Christ, our task is easier. In our Gospel reading today, Jesus tells us the following about people of faith:

“A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart.”

We need to nourish our own spiritual reserves, so that we can be of service to others. This can be especially challenging in the course of our busy lives but it is really important to take a little bit of time out every day whether it's a walk in the evening or perhaps dropping in to say a prayer in the church.

Our First Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus makes an interesting point: *“The kiln tests the work of the*



The Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.
 With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
 Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
 We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
 Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
 nor partiality influence our actions.
 Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
 and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
 All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
 in the communion of the Father and the Son,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

Victor Okafar will be Ordained a Permanent Deacon on Saturday evening 26th February at 7pm in St. Martin de Porres Church by Bishop Éamonn Walshe. Victor will become the 34th Permanent Deacon to be Ordained for the Archdiocese. Please keep Victor and his family in your prayers at this time.

We welcome in Baptism:

Holly Geraldine Moran
Amira Emma Moran
Emily Marie O'Hara



May these newly baptised children always know and love Jesus as their friend.

Ministers of the Eucharist

The Roster for the month of March is now available from the table in the Reception area of the Parish Centre.



Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers— Dolores Keenan

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



LISTENING TO OUR YOUNG CHURCH - DUBLIN DIOCESAN TEEN SYNOD

Young People of Dublin - This is your chance! Pope Francis wants to hear what you think or feel about our Church. We would love to hear your voice at our Dublin Diocesan Teen Synod! Join us online **Thursday 31st March 6:30pm - 8pm.** You can register online using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jVYZSdxbf1> Registration closes on the 25th March at 5pm. For more information, email: synod@dublindiocese.ie

Ash Wednesday 2nd March **Day of Fast & Abstinence**

Ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass.
Holy Child Mass Times: 9.15a.m. and 7pm.

Blessed Margaret Ball Mass Time: 10am.

First Friday Mass at 9.15a.m. in Holy Child



Pope Francis invites everyone to make Ash Wednesday a day of fasting for peace. "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on this day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from madness of war."



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last weeks' results :

1st Jackpot 3 9 17 30 2nd Jackpot 2 6 19 26

No Jackpot winners.

The winners of the €25 prizes were as follows:

M. Mullery: A. Byrne: M. Smith: F. Davis: M. O'Donohue: J. Caul: A. & M. Meehan.

Next weeks' Prizes are as follows; 1st Jackpot €15,000 2nd Jackpot €1,650 Plus seven Consolation Prizes of €25.

Envelopes available at the church doors and in the Parish Centre.

Entries must be received by 9.45a.m on Tuesday morning. Results will be published at the Church doors and in the Parish Newsletter.



Novena of Grace— Our Novena of Grace devotion in honour of St. Francis Xavier begins on 4th March and continues to 12th March. The Novena prayer will be recited at all Masses.

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

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| Sat 26th Feb | 7.00p.m. | Bernadette Nugent – Month's Mind Brian Clarke – Anniversary |
| Sun 27th Feb | 10.30a.m. | Fr. Patrick Byrne – Month's Mind Joan Duffy – 1st Anniversary, David Naughton – Anniv. |
| | 12.30p.m. | Martin Malone – Month's Mind Pauline Hayden – 1st Anniversary Robert Power – Anniversary |
| Mon 28th Feb | 9.15a.m. | Milly & John O'Byrne – Anniversaries |
| Tues 1st Mar | 9.15a.m. | Tom O'Connor – 1st Anniversary Brendan Doherty – Anniversary Margaret Noone – Anniversary |
| Wed 2nd Mar | | Ash Wednesday |
| Thurs 3rd Mar | 9.15a.m. | Agnes & Bertie McGettrick – Anniversaries |
| Fri 4th Mar | 9.15a.m. | Altar List of the Dead |
| Sat 5th Mar | 7.00p.m. | Daisy Heffernan – Anniversary |
| Sun 6th Mar | 10.30a.m. | Justin Coonan – 1st Anniversary Stephen Bolton – Birthday Remembrance Vincent Kavanagh, Brigid Adderley – Anniversaries Cora McGuigan – Anniversary |
| | 12.30p.m. | Available for Intention |
| | | <u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u> |
| Sun 27th Feb | 10.00a.m. | June Besagni – Anniversary Teresa Campelli – Anniversary Tommy Carolan – Anniversary Willie Carolan – Remembrance |
| Wed 2nd Mar | 10.00a.m. | Ash Wednesday |
| Sun 6th Mar | 10.00a.m. | Available for Intention |