

parts of our lives over the past year whether this is bereavement, illness, depression or disappointment. We can be sure that Jesus will always accompany us through our doubts, difficulties and challenges.

Whether we are working from home or are out and about, we are entitled to give ourselves some "time out" during Advent to reflect on the reality of Christmas and what it means for us as Christian people. I believe that we need to reclaim Advent as a much-needed space to reflect on our faith.

Today's Gospel tells us to "*Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.*" This reminds us that we are passing through this World and need to make the most of the gifts and opportunities that God has given to each and every one of us.

Our first reading today from Prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the coming Saviour "*I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land.*" During Advent, let us allow ourselves some moments of stillness and quiet, so that we can listen to what God may be saying to us at this time of the year.

There are practical ways in which we could make this Advent more meaningful. Perhaps we could attend mass more regularly (in person or online with our parish webcam which can be accessed from our website <http://whitehall.dublindioocese.ie>) and make it a time of prayer and reflective anticipation. If we are sending Christmas Cards why not choose cards with a distinctly religious theme and message.

Also it is a time for giving and sharing with those in need. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul collection, which will take place in our churches on Sunday, December 11th, will provide us with an opportunity to help the most in need in our community.

Speaking on Tuesday Pope Francis said: "*Advent is the period which every year introduces us to Christmas and its mystery. This year too its lights will be subdued due to the consequences of the pandemic, which still weighs on our time. All the more reason we are called not to lose hope. The feast of the Birth of Christ does not clash with the trial we are experiencing because it is the feast of compassion, of tenderness par excellence. Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth.*"

I wish you all a peaceful and holy Advent.

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,
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"Advent is a season of joyful hope"

28th November 2021

When walking around the shopping centres in the last week or so, you would be forgiven for thinking that Christmas has already arrived. The Christmas trees are up, the lights are on and there are plenty of appealing window displays from which to choose gifts.

However, from a Christian perspective, the crib in Bethlehem is still empty, the shepherds have not heard the voice of the angels and the star has yet to rise to tell the three wise men of the birth of Jesus.

There is a sense in our society that things have to happen almost instantly. We have lost the sense of quiet anticipation. And I think that's what Advent, which only lasts for four weeks, is trying to teach us.

Advent marks the beginning of the new Church year when our Sunday gospel readings change from Mark to Luke. So, in a way, we turn a page today as we start the new liturgical year. A fresh start is always a good opportunity for reflection, thankfulness and hope for our future.

Father Kieran O'Mahony says: "*If you were to wish people a Happy New Year today, they would in all probability find it*

awkward. Nevertheless, we do start a new Christian year with the season of Advent. The different seasons remind us of important aspects of being Christian, one of which is the conviction that we may always begin again and start anew. Last Sunday, we looked back and today we look forward: what are our hopes for the coming Christian year?"



[Advent is a season of joyful hope.](#)

Its deliberately short - just four weeks - allowing us just enough time to reflect on the coming of Jesus to us at Christmas. And I'm sure there was never a year when we more needed to share the news of the birth of Christ at Christmas with family, friends and neighbours.

The light and hope of Advent is symbolised by the lighted candles from our Advent wreath which can shine Christ's love into the darker

We welcome in Baptism:
Tom Andrew Rafferty
May this newly baptised child always know and love Jesus as his friend.



Pilgrimage to Knock on Wednesday 8th December.
Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Coach from Church of Holy Child at 8.30am Return fare €25. Contact Marie McAllister. 01 8425678

Advent Reflection and Music
The Adult Faith Team will hold 4 Advent Reflection Services during December. They will begin on Wed. 1st Dec. at 7p.m. and continue each Wed. until 22nd Dec. and include readings, prayer/reflections and music as we prepare for Christmas. Services will be broadcast on the parish webcam but parishioners are also welcome to join us in the church at these times.

Project for Advent The new Liturgical Year is St. Luke. As a little Advent project why not read one chapter a day from 1st December 2021 which will bring us up to Christmas Eve.

Recently Deceased:
You are asked to remember in your Prayers – Elizabeth (Betty) Furlong, Nora Hamilton, Andrew Myler Gerry Moloney Nora Carrigan
May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.



Where does your donation go? First Collection, Christmas, Easter & Summer Dues –all go into the Common Fund at Archbishop’s House where they are redistributed to pay the salaries of all the priests working in the Diocese, to pay priests in non-income-earning appointments, priests on study leave, priests who are ill and our retired priests. Offerings for Funerals are divided between the priest, the parish and the diocese. Offerings for Baptism and Weddings are divided between the priest and the diocese.
Second collection – SHARE – goes to a fund in Archbishop’s House to support diocesan services, pastoral projects and poorer parishes.
The Donate Button – on the Parish Website goes directly to Archbishop’s House.
The new Tap & Go donations –go directly to Archbishop’s House and are divided 60% to support priests and 40% to SHARE.
Weekly envelopes (Planned Giving), Standing Orders and Shrine Donations & the Parish Lotto funds remain here in the Parish and are our only source of income for Parish expenses and to cover heat and light, maintenance, staff salaries and on-going parish development projects.
Donations and bequests given specifically for the support of the parish remain here in the parish. If you wish to make a donation to the parish for any particular purpose, please put it into an envelope, indicating what it is for, and place the envelope in one of the safes at the Church doors.

Please take a copy of the Newsletter home with you.
Please do not leave it on the seat or return it to the boxes at the doors.

Month of November
As we approach the end of the month of November, we continue to remember all those who have died in our community, our friends and loved ones - all sharing in common that they died into the arms of our loving God.
We pray knowing that you, Lord have carved their names on the palm of your hand.



Please Support your Parish Lotto
Last Tuesday’s winning numbers were
1st Jackpot 18 22 23 28 2nd Jackpot 1 4 5 9 No Winner.
The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: M. Maguire, C. Corcoran, J. Clarke, C. Gallagher, C. Shelley, N. Burke, J. Caul.
Next Week’s Jackpots: First Jackpot €15,000 Second Jackpot €1,150. Plus seven Consolation prizes of €25. Draws will be held each Tuesday morning. Lotto entry envelopes must be submitted by 9.45a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Envelopes available at the church doors and in the Parish Centre.



November Remembrance Masses – Wednesday, 17th and 24th November we celebrated our annual Remembrance Masses. Many thanks to the Funeral Ministry/ Bethany Team whose commitment and dedication to this ministry is a credit to themselves and the Parish. The Masses gave all present space to remember their loved ones who died during a very difficult past year and hopefully provided some comfort. Thanks to everyone involved, our volunteer sanitisers, those responsible for the beautiful flowers, the board of names in front of the Altar, Kathryn & Niall for the appropriate music which enhanced the liturgy. Not forgetting the Ministry Teams, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, and Sacristans. *Fr. Paul*

Church Shop Christmas cards, diaries, and church art calendars are now on sale in the shop.

Ministers of the Eucharist
Roster for December is now available at reception in the Parish Centre

Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

Sat 27th Nov 7.00p.m.	Nancy Seery, Rose Duffy – Anniversaries
Sun 28th Nov 10.30a.m.	Christopher Browne – 1st Anniversary
	Niall McCann – Birthday Remembrance
	Mary McDermott, Seamus & John Hyland – Anniversaries
	James & Attracta Shaw – Remembrance R.I.P.
12.30p.m	Paddy (Anniv) Bernie (1st Anniv) Hammond –R.I.P.
	Catherine Hammond – Remembrance
	Benny McDonald, Michael & John Gibney – Anniversaries
Mon 29th, Tues 30th, Wed 1st, Thurs 2nd Dec-	Available for Intention
Fri 3rd Dec 9.15a.m.	Altar List of the Dead
Sat 4th Dec 7.00p.m.	Eileen & Sidney Herbert – R.I.P
	Anne Corcoran, Helena Foran – Anniversaries
Sun 5th Dec 10.30a.m.	Maura O’Keeffe- R.I.P., Maureen O’Beara-Anniversary
	Mairead Hennessy – Special Intention
12.30p.m.	Thomas Colgan – Months Mind
	Brendan O’Donohue – Month’s Mind
	Florence Farren – Anniversary
	<u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u>
Sun. 28th Nov 10.00a.m.	Christy Smith – Month’s Mind