

The result is that for many, religion is just a crutch—something to lean on in times of weakness and infirmity. But in times of wellbeing they more or less forget about it.

It is true that faith is the best support we can have in times of weakness. But it is a lot more. It should be a positive force in our lives. It is a crutch in times of sadness and weakness, but it should be a pair of wings in times of joy and strength. In other words, it does not merely appeal to our weaknesses, but also to our strengths.

The trouble is that religion has become just 'religion', so respectable that its acceptance involves neither risk nor strain. Religion should challenge and stretch one to one's limit and beyond, so that thereafter one has new standards by which to judge oneself.

There is a religion of devotion, and a religion of commitment. A religion of devotion is a religion of comfort, and is often centred on self rather than on others. A religion of commitment is religion of challenge, of risk, of unselfishness.

In the Gospel Jesus asks for commitment from his followers. 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, he must renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me..... anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.' For the committed Christian, suffering is not a likelihood; it is a certainty.

Being a disciple is a serious business. Yet this does not mean that suffering is something Christians should seek. Jesus did not seek suffering; Gethsemane makes that clear. But suffering will inevitably be part of Christian life as it was part of Jesus' life. But our following of Christ can be in small steps. God is patient. His challenge is invitation. What does following Christ mean in practice? It means faithfulness to one's way of life, concern for others in whatever manner, the caring gesture, the kind word—these add up. The Lord does not overlook the painful decision, the unspoken sorrow, the secret suffering. There can be much heroism in ordinary life. There are many more saints than those whom we honour as such. *Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB*

## 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).

### The Cost of Discipleship

3rd September 2017

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Unless you take up your cross and follow me you cannot be my disciple.' The word 'cross' has been softened, so that the saying of Jesus has lost its force. The cross does not mean your arthritis, your indigestion, that difficult relationship, at least not in the first place. These are things which come to us in spite of ourselves. The 'cross' in the New Testament means that suffering which comes into our lives because of the choices we have made for the Kingdom. In that sense it is always something we choose.

An illustration—Nelson Mandela spent twenty-seven years in prison, or ten thousand days (approximately). Before that he was on the run for a couple of years. Of the time he was on the run he wrote later:

'It was not easy for me to separate myself from my wife and children,

to say good-bye to the good old days when, at the end of a strenuous day at the office, I could look forward to joining my family at the dinner table, and instead to take up the life of a man hunted continuously by the police, living separated from those who are closest to me, facing continually the hazards of detection and of arrest. This was a life infinitely more difficult than serving a prison sentence. (Long Walk to Freedom, 1994, Little, Brown and Company)'

What drove him to make such great sacrifices was his love for his country. This was the 'cross' he carried because of his love for his people. It has been claimed that religion asks too little of people. It is too ready to offer comfort and to console, but has lost the courage to challenge.

# Family Mass

The 12.30p.m. Family Mass returns on **Sunday 10th September**. We are looking for young people to join our Youth Ministry Teams. So, if you are interested in joining the Youth Choir, the Young Readers or the Altar Servers please come to the Church on **Wednesday, 6th September at 4.30p.m.** Members of the Family Mass team will be present to provide information on each ministry. The team look forward to meeting you.



**World Meeting of Families**  
**Registration & Tickets for the WMOF2018**  
 Registration for the World Meeting of Families is now open. Visit the [ticket section](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie) on [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie) to access information on the type of tickets and registration available. Accommodation booking is also available online at time of registration through the same booking form on the website.



**Annual Pilgrimage – The Grandparents**  
 National Annual Pilgrimage takes place on **September 10th** in Knock Shrine at 2.30p.m. Everybody welcome to honour and thank grandparents for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin – Ballina School Choir – Dana sings ‘Our Lady of Knock’. All Welcome



**Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning**  
 in aid of St. Francis Hospice

**Dorothy Gray & Evelyn Lyons** invite you to join them on **Thursday, 14th September 2017** at **47, Lorcan Road, from 10a.m. - 1p.m.** **Tea/Coffee/Raffle.** They look forward to meeting you all again!

**St. Aidan's C.B.S. Whitehall**  
**Open Evening Thursday 21st Sept.**  
 6.30pm. – 8.30pm. Parents and pupils of primary 4th 5th and 6th classes are invited to learn about courses activities etc. Tel: Deirdre 087 2315137

**Ministers of the Eucharist:-**  
 The Roster for Sept. is available on table at Reception in the Parish Centre.

**Thanks - The Little Sisters of the Poor** wish to thank parishioners who gave so generously to their Collection last week.

**Recently Deceased**  
 You are asked to remember in your Prayers:  
 Seamus Greene  
 Mary Crowley  
*May they enjoy perfect peace and reconciliation in the presence of God.*



**Magenta Ladies Club Santry** – re-opens on Wednesday, 13th September in Santry Community Resource Centre at 8pm. New members very welcome.

**Church Gate Collection: This weekend**  
**Sat 2nd/ Sun 3rd Sept.** is in aid of the **Lourdes Invalid Fund.**

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

**Monday 4th Sept** 9.15a.m. Thomas Smyth & Nadia Choudhry (R.I.P.)  
 7.00p.m. Mollie, Paddy, Anne, John & Kitty Murphy (Annivs)  
**Tuesday 5th Sept.** 9.15a.m. Thanksgiving  
 7.00p.m. Michael & Margaret Smith (Anniversary)  
**Wed. 6th Sept.** 9.15a.m. Charles & Bridget Freehill (Anniversary)  
 7.00p.m. Mary Brady (1st Anniversary)  
**Thurs. 7th Sept.** 9.15a.m. Frank & Nora McGreevy (Anniversary)  
 7.00p.m. Mavis Keniry (1st Anniversary)  
**Friday 8th Sept.** 9.15a.m. St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society  
 7.00p.m. Liam & Margaret Murphy (Anniversaries)  
**Sat. 9th Sept.** 10.00a.m. John Duffy (Anniversary)  
**Vigil** 7.00p.m. Tommy Kane (Month's Mind) Mary Bowes (Anniv)  
**Sun. 10th Sept.** 11.15a.m. People of the Parish  
 12.30p.m. Vincent Rundle (1st Anniversary)  
 Ellen & William Lawlor (R.I.P.)  
 Alice Gibney (Birthday Remembrance & Anniv.)  
 Cecil Graham (Anniversary)  
 6.00p.m. Joan & Bert Keenan Nancy Dermody (Annivs.)  
 Connie Harnan (1st Anniversary)

**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**  
**Wednesday 6th Sept.** 10.00a.m. Available for Intention  
**Sunday 10th Sept.** 10.00a.m. John & Julie McCormack (Anniversaries)  
 Kay Black (Anniversary)



## Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:  
 1st Jackpot: 1 5 13 16 2nd Jackpot: 10 22 23 25  
 No Jackpot winner. The winners of the Seven Consolation prizes were:- F. Kelly; M. Finlay; M. Kilmurray; K. Heffernan; C. Smith; M. Fitzpatrick Murray; M. Ryan.  
 Next Draw: 1st Jackpot €11,500 2nd Jackpot €2,000  
**Plus Seven Consolation Prizes of €25 and 5 Extra Prizes of €100.**



**Our Lady's Choral Society RTE Concert Orchestra:** Our Lady's Choral Society presents, in the National Concert Hall, the *Irish Premier of Liszt Missa Coronationalis* (on the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Performance in Ireland) on Sun. Sept. 3rd at 3p.m.. The concert also includes the popular Stabat Mater of Rossini. OLCS performs with soloists Sinead Campbell-Wallace, Mihaela Loredana Chirvase, Andrew Gavin, Robert McAllister and the RTE Concert Orchestra conducted by Proinsias O Duinn. Tickets €25, €22.50 (Conc. €22.50, €20.25) . More info. [www.olcs.ie](http://www.olcs.ie)

**Ballymun Adult Read & Write Scheme** Are you an Adult who would like to return to learning? Brush up on your reading, writing, spellings or maths skills? Would like to learn to use a computer, tablet or smartphone? **Daytime and evening courses are held in CDETB Ballymun Adult Education Centre. Tel Christine 8622402**