

author.

When thinking about people returning to the church, I recall the contribution that RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has made in recent years.

The vision behind RCIA is that the ministry of welcome for new Catholics is the responsibility of all parishioners. It challenges us to be a living sign of the saving embrace of God's love. It encourages us to be welcoming, missionary and familiar with the Word of God as we accompany new members of our Church on their journey of faith.

As Archbishop Martin said during a ceremony for RCIA candidates in the Pro Cathedral recently:

"The Christian initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptised. The faith is shared and transmitted not simply through books. It is shared within community. It is shared in that community which worships Sunday after Sunday in the Eucharist. To know Jesus we must know the scriptures and we must come to share in the life that comes to us in the Eucharist."

The liturgist Father Aidan Kavanagh O.S.B. said that when historians look back at Vatican II and subsequent decades, they may well see RCIA as one of the more important results of the Council. He felt this not just because of the changes to the initiating ritual *per se*, but because of its vision that, as the Archbishop said, the initiation of new Catholics are the responsibility of all who are baptised.

In Donaghmede Parish, we are privileged to welcome three candidates who will receive the sacraments at this Easter. We hope it will be a spiritually enriching experience for them, their families and friends and the entire parish community. It was also very rewarding for the small team of parishioners who are journeying with them as they are preparing for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We ask for your prayers for the candidates as they continue on their journey of faith towards this coming Easter.

Gerard Reilly is a Permanent Deacon in Donaghmede and Ayrfield 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.

*"This is a real family story about
breakups and reconciliation."*

31st March 2019

Today's Gospel is the familiar story about the prodigal son who went off and squandered his inheritance but was later forgiven and welcomed back home by this father. I often reflect on the reaction of his brother who did everything right and played by the rules but felt (perhaps unfairly) that he got very little thanks for his diligence and loyalty. As the Jesuit writer, Father Donal Neary puts it when reflecting on this reading:

"This is a real family story about breakups and reconciliation, about love that covers all sorts of happenings and about love to the end. It is about a father who loved all the time, and many a parent identifies with it."

He goes on to explain:

"Look at what happened when he came home – mercy took over – the run, robe, ring and the sandals. He was welcomed as a son. The father doesn't even say once that he forgives. He loves totally and that includes forgiveness."

Father Kieran O'Mahony makes the following point about this reading:

"Like many a parable, this story makes its point in what seems to be unfair: the spendthrift son is rewarded and the elder son is hurt and angry. Jesus is telling us that love is a free gift, not something we earn by our goodness. This is true of human love, and is also true of God's love."

The spiritual writer Henri Nouwen, wrote a wonderful book called "The Return of the Prodigal Son" which I would recommend if you ever come across it. It has sold over a million copies worldwide. In the book, Nouwen reflects on his experience of contemplating Rembrandt's famous painting of the Return of the Prodigal Son. It's a wonderful book where art meets a famous gospel story and inspires a wonderful meditation by the



Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019
Wed. 4th – Mon. 9th Sept. Hotel Solitude ****
5 Nights Full Board Fully Inclusive Price €759 per person sharing.
(single room €180 supplement)
In conjunction with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage.
To book please contact Anne in the Parish Office Tel: 8375274



Silver Jubilee of the Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball
 The official opening and dedication of Blessed Margaret Ball Chapel, by then Archbishop and later Cardinal Desmond Connell, was on 18th Dec. 1994. It is important that we mark this significant milestone in an appropriate way. Any ideas on how to celebrate will be most welcome by the small Jubilee Committee. Please leave written suggestions c/o the Sacristy or speak to the Sacristans or one of the Priests.

Divine Mercy Sunday 28th April:
Pilgrimage to Knock – From Church of the Holy Child Whitehall at 8.00a.m. Contact Marie McAllister Ph. 01 842 5678.

Holy Communion is available to all communicants under both kinds at the Main Altar, Priest's Chair side.



Eucharistic Adoration - On Saturday, 6th and Sunday 7th April, members of the Apostolate for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration will speak at the Vigil and Sunday Masses about setting up weekly Eucharistic Adoration in the Parish. We are looking for parishioners to attend for one hour of Adoration each week on an ongoing basis which would be a great blessing for those who volunteer and for the Parish.

Ministers of the Eucharist: Rosters for April are available on the Table at Reception area of the Parish Pastoral Centre.

First Friday - 5th April
Mass Schedule:
Church of the Holy Child
9.15a.m. and 7.00p.m. Masses.
Confessions on Thursday after the
9.15a.m. and before the 7.00p.m.
Masses.

Church Collections 24-3-2019

1st Collection €1,495.
 Share €1,828
 Family Envelope €700

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity

Recently Deceased: You are asked to remember in your Prayers:
 Marie O'Donohoe

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



Parish Easter Mailing
We are looking for Volunteers to help with the delivery of our Easter Cards.
If you have some spare time and are willing to deliver in your area please contact Anne in the Parish Office - Tel: 01 8375274.



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:
 1st Jackpot: 1 3 23 30 2nd Jackpot: 9 14 19 21 No Jackpot winner.
 The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: J. O'Byrne; W. Gubbins; S. McLoughlin; P. O'Connor; V. Cullen; T. Butler; B. & C. Carroll;
 Next Week's Lotto: First Jackpot €15,000 Second Jackpot €600
Plus 7 Consolation Prizes of €25 & 5 Special Prizes of €100



Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

Mon. 1st April	9.15a.m.	Thanksgiving
	7.00p.m.	Richard Carrick (Anniversary)
Tues. 2nd April	9.15a.m.	Available for Intention
	7.00p.m.	Tony McCormack (Month's Mind)
Wed. 3rd April	9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.	Available for Intention
Thurs. 4th April	9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.	Available for Intention
Fri. 5th April	9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.	Altar List for the Dead
Sat. 6th April	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Vigil	7.00p.m.	Pauline Kinnear (Month's Mind) Reginald (Reg) Rungay (1st Anniversary) Joe & Sheila Hanratty (Anniversaries) Mary Clarke (Anniversary)
Sun. 7th April	11.15a.m.	Kathleen O'Hara (Month's Mind) husband George (Snr.) son George (Jnr.) and Mother Kate (R.I.P.) John (Snr.) & John (Jun.) Carney Brigid Adderley (Month's Mind)
	12.30p.m.	Larry & Jane O'Reilly (Anniversaries) Deceased members of the Fox & Murray Family (R.I.P.) Geoffry Curran (R.I.P.) Betty Conaghy (Anniversary & Birthday Remem.)
	6.00p.m.	Available for Intention
<u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u>		
Wed. 3rd April	10.00a.m.	Elizabeth (Betty) Carroll (Anniversary)
Sun. 7th April	10.00a.m.	Bridget & John Barry (Anniversaries) Martin Philbin (Remembrance)

Happy Mother's Day

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

Life to the Full Book Club is now a monthly event. Join other **young adults** (20s & 30s) on April 4th from 7pm. - 8.30pm. in St. Paul's Church Arran Quay. They will be reflecting on Bear Gryll's autobiography, Mud, Sweat, & Tears.