

The wise men travelled bearing gifts.

*What gifts do you bring with you on your journey?*

**At times the wise men lost sight of the star.**

*What clouds have obscured your star on your journey of faith?*

At the beginning of this New Year, we can start afresh as we try to make a definite commitment to our faith in the challenging times in which we live. It may be that we could attend Mass more regularly or go to confession once a month or perhaps take the opportunity to pray more regularly. We could get involved with one of the parish groups or ministries or perhaps offer to volunteer with the Society of St Vincent de Paul or a different charity that supports the homeless. Whatever we decide to do, it is an opportunity to use our own gifts that we have received in a more effective way in order to be of service to our parish community. Then the ministry that we received at our own baptism will be more fruitful and become a blessing to those around us.

May this be a year of blessings of each and every one of us as we continue on the next chapter of our Christian journey in 2020. Like the wise men in today's Gospel, may it be a journey of enlightenment and hope that will bring us closer to Jesus as we travel together and share our gifts with others. As someone recently said when speaking about the journey of faith in terms of pilgrimage: *"Sure we are just walking each other home."*

I will conclude with a short prayer written by Father Kieran O'Mahony:

*"You are the mystery at the heart of all that exists:  
draw us to yourself, O Lord,  
that knowing you we find our true selves,  
and finding our true selves,  
we may come to know you. Amen."*

*Gerard Reilly - 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,  
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*"Each of us is really on a pilgrimage,  
or better on a quest – a quest to  
become my true self, in the image and  
likeness of God."*

**5th January 2020**

Father Kieran O'Mahony describes our quest for faith very well:

Happy New Year to you all. Hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. The Feast of the Epiphany this year falls on a Monday. We celebrate the arrival of the three wise men in Bethlehem to honour and worship the infant Jesus.

By tradition, they were astrologers who had come in search of the nativity by following a star. In our times, we might use satellite navigation. Google maps or perhaps a printed map to find somewhere unfamiliar but, back over 2,000 years ago, these wise men used the stars in the sky to find their way to their destination.

It's a time for New Year resolutions which may include giving some time to our own search for Jesus in our busy lives.

*"In our deepest selves, each of us is a mystery: Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? How should I live? The risk in our present culture is to sleepwalk through life, to be satisfied with a merely material existence. But the human "project" is much greater. Each of us is really on a pilgrimage, or better on a quest – a quest to become my true self, in the image and likeness of God."*

When reflecting on the wise men, Father Kieran makes three interesting points:

**Like the wise men, our life journey is not one we travel alone.**

*Who are the people who share your life journey now?*

**New Year** – As this is the New Year edition of our Parish Newsletter, words of appreciation are due to so many. We were uplifted in spirit by taking part in our annual Carol Service before Christmas. Sincere thanks to all those involved in music ministry in our Parish.



Christmas brings out the best in people and the talents and gifts of parishioners are generously expressed to enhance liturgy, worship and service. I would like to offer thanks to all involved in ministry in our Parish, they provide a great support to people at the various stages in spiritual life.

Our gratitude is also due to our dedicated Sacristans in both Churches which are always spic and span, many thanks to God's Housekeepers who work throughout the year. Thanks also to Dorothy Gray for the seasonal Church décor and our beautiful Crib which as usual this year is splendid and well worth a visit to say a little prayer. Thanks to Margaret & Peter Grimes who decorated the Parish Christmas Tree. To Parishioners and visitors among us; may I wish you all the blessings and grace of this holy time and may 2020 be filled with joy, peace and happiness. Canon John

**Monday 6th January 2020**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**  
**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Mass Schedule: Church of the Holy Child:-**  
**Sunday: Vigil: 6.00p.m.**  
**Monday 9.15a.m., 11.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.**  
**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball: 10.a.m.**

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



**Ministers of the Eucharist:**

The Roster for the month of January is available on the table in the Reception area of the Parish Centre.

**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers:

**Joan Glynn**  
**John Bacon**  
**Eamon Bird**  
**Mary Wall (Mamie)**  
**Philip Joseph McDonagh Kelly**  
**Margaret (Peggy) Murphy**



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

**Our Thanks** – The Priests of the Parish wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks all, who have forwarded Christmas dues. If you wish to receive an individual acknowledgement please contact the Parish Office.

**Parent Support Evening:** Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding an Evening for parents on Wednesday 15th January at 7.20p.m. in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, or whether death was recent or not. Please contact Anam Cara on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

**Parish Lotto**

The next draw will take place on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.



1st Jackpot:: €15,000 2nd Jackpot: €600 plus 7 consolation prizes of €25.

**Christmas Crib**



Don't forget to visit our beautiful crib and say a little prayer there with wonder and awe at the birth of Our Saviour. It is situated at the top left hand side of the Church.

**Mass Intentions from the 4th January**  
**Church of the Holy Child**

- Sat. 4th Jan. 10.00a.m. Special Intention, Walter Murphy-Anniversary**
  - Sun. 5th Jan. 11.15a.m. Pat, Mary Bridget & Ellen Phelan-Anniversaries**
  - 12.30a.m. Mary & Jim Molloy-Anniversaries**
  - Mon. 6th Jan. 9.15a.m. Sunny Thomas-Anniversary**
  - Tues. 7th Jan. 9.15a.m. Kevin MacHale – R. I. P.**
  - 7.00p.m. Doris Worn - Birthday Remembrance**
  - Thurs. 9th Jan. 9.15a.m. Dan Walsh – Anniversary**
  - 7.00p.m. Carmel Butler, Rita & Paddy Power – Anniv.**
  - Mairead Mahon – Anniversary**
  - Fri. 10th Jan. 7.00p.m. Joe Kearney, Katie McDermott – Anniversaries**
  - Sat. 11th Jan. 10.00a.m. Christy Baker - Anniversary**
  - Vigil 7.00p.m. Dominick Duffy & Deceased Members of the Boland Family R.I.P.**
  - Patrick McGrath & James Crampton – Anniv.**
  - Keith Kenny – Anniversary**
  - Sun. 12th Jan. 11.15a.m. Maureen Smith, Bernard Hewitt – Anniversaries**
  - McArdle & Russell Families - R.I.P.**
  - 12.30p.m. William Seymour -Anniversary**
  - Jack & Rose Leonard- Anniversaries**
  - 6.00p.m. Kay O'Connor - Anniversary**
- Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**  
**Sun. 5th & 12th Jan., Wed. 8th Jan. No Mass Intentions**

**Prayer at the Start of the Year**

*Lord, I sometimes wonder where I am going and what is the meaning of my life.*  
*I wonder especially what the new year holds for me*  
*Will it bring joy or sorrow, success or failure, life or death?*  
*But then I remember that you came on earth: and travel the road of life with me.*  
*And so I say to my soul: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of Christ, your Brother; that will be better than a light and safer than a known path'.*