

rest of us to protect their lives and vindicate their rights. By using the word 'choice' we need to remember that, for the baby waiting to be born, the choice we make can be a matter of life or death.

### Two lives, one love

An expectant mother needs and deserves the care and support of everyone around her, particularly if her pregnancy poses a serious crisis for her and her family. A mother may be informed that her baby faces serious challenges or is perhaps terminally ill. She might be pregnant as a result of rape. Especially in those tragic cases, both the mother and her unborn child can - and must - be loved and cherished.

A compassionate society will do all in its power to support and love the mother and baby, and encourage responsible support from fathers. This vision of life makes sense to people of all faiths and none. Though enriched by our Catholic faith, it is our common humanity that convinces us of the right to life of every human being.

### A declaration of equality

Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future.

**We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will 'choose life' and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country.**

*Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference on the right to life of the unborn child.*



**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**  
**7th -12th September 2018**  
**Hotel Solitude \*\*\*\***  
**5 Nights – Full Board Fully Inclusive Price €739**  
**In conjunction with the**  
**Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage**  
**(single room subject to confirmation – supplement €175)**  
**To book please contact Anne in the**  
**Parish Office Tel: 8375274**

## 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).

### Our Common Humanity

6th May 2018

**As pastors we are aware that the conversation about unborn life is sensitive, delicate and, indeed, painful for many. We offer our reflections with the greatest of respect for everyone while wishing to make some points clearly and unambiguously ahead of the referendum on the Eighth Amendment on 25 May 2018.**

#### A Fundamental right

Every one of us has a right to our life. It is not given to us by the Constitution of Ireland or by any law. We have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it. For us as a society to now declare that any category of human being should have that right taken away would be a shocking step. We would effectively be saying that unborn children do not exist or, if they do, they do not count. That is a manifest injustice.

#### Life begins at conception

At every point, from conception on, the baby has the potential to realise the fullness of life that God intended. All that is needed is time and nurturing. Today we see more clearly

that human life begins at conception. There is no later stage in a baby's development that we can say, 'Up until now the foetus was not a person and now it has become a baby.'

**Are we allowing ourselves to be desensitised?**

Making abortion freely available desensitises people to the value of every human life. The scientific evidence about the beginning of human life has never been clearer. It is, therefore, a great irony that in Ireland we are for the first time in our history losing our clarity about the right to life of the unborn. Knowledge about the mysterious workings of DNA and the stunningly vivid evidence of ultrasound images of little persons in the earliest weeks in the womb should be making us more committed than ever to the protection of unborn life.

#### Choose life

The child in the womb has life and potential. However, like all babies, before birth or in the early years, she or he has no choice. Powerless to defend themselves, they rely on the

**Red Hurley Concert** - A wonderful evening of music and song was presented in the Holy Child Church on Friday 27th April. Red performed beautifully and professionally as we would expect. Our adult choir added immensely to the entertainment and the enjoyment of the evening. All their hard work and many hours of practice were rewarded by a splendid turnout of people and the creation of a tremendous atmosphere of good will and joy. Congratulations and thanks are due to the organising committee and all who helped the production on the night – too many to name individually – but Kathryn Browne can be highlighted as directing a great show from start to finish. It was part of a fundraising effort to purchase a new organ and the amount collected will be announced shortly.

*Fr. John*

**Thanks -Whitehall Adult Choir** thank all those who supported the recent Red Hurley Concert. In particular, they thank everyone who helped in any way.

**One Day Retreat Saturday 26th May Lough Derg**—Cost €65. Includes return fare and island admission For further information & Bookings contact Marie on 01 842 5678.

**The Exam Mass** will be celebrated on **Sunday 27th May at 12.30pm in the Church of the Holy Child**. This is the normal 12.30pm Family Mass with special emphasis on those doing exams, especially the Junior and Leaving Cert. During this Mass students will be invited to light a candle and place it before the Altar and then in turn write their name on a piece of paper and place it in the basket in front of the Altar. The basket will remain there for all Masses during the month of June as a practical and prayerful way of remembering our young people during the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams please feel free to place their names in the basket.

**Referendum on the 8th Amendment**

**Gardiner Street Church** invites you to engage with the questions raised by the forthcoming referendum on abortion. **Tuesday 8th May 8pm: What is the experience of women in Ireland facing challenging pregnancies?** Speakers: Ann-Marie Lee, Health Nurse; D. Twomey, Obstetrician. Chair: Pat Coyle, Jesuit Communications. **Tuesday 15th May 8pm: what will be the likely legal consequences of a yes/no Vote?** Speaker Prof. Gerard Whyte, Trinity College, Dublin. Chair: Brian Lennon SJ



**Recently Deceased:** You are asked to remember in your Prayers:  
**Mona O'Donoghue**  
**Robert Desmond Duffy**  
**Elaine Wolfe**  
**Mark Swinburn**

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

**World Meeting of Families: 21-26 August 2018.**  
**Thousands of volunteers required,** as individuals or groups, to assist in organising and running this series of events. They will be essential to the success of the World Meeting of Families in Ireland. If you are willing to help please apply to [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer)



**Please Support your Parish Lotto**

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 6 16 20 22 2nd Jackpot: 16 25 26 29

No Jackpot Winner. The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: R. McCormack: F. Noonan: P. Grogan: M. Moloney: A. Flanagan: C. Gallagher: B. Devine. The winners of the five extra prizes of €100 were: G. Smith: M. McQuillan: A. Neeson: C. Barker: M. Moran.

**Next Week's Lotto: First Jackpot €5,500 Second Jackpot €850**

**7 Consolation Prizes of €25**

**Mass Intentions for the coming week**

**Church of the Holy Child**

**Monday 7th May** 10.00a.m. Available for Attention (No Evening Mass)  
**Tuesday 8th May** 9.15a.m. James Stapleton (Anniversary)  
 7.00p.m. Anthony Delaney (Anniversary)  
**Wednesday 9th May** 9.15a.m. Special Intention  
 7.00p.m. Mary Reilly (Anniversary)  
**Thursday 10th May** 9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m. Available for Intention  
**Friday 11th May** 9.15a.m. St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society  
 7.00p.m. Decd. Members of the Farrelly & Brady Families (R.I.P.)  
 Elizabeth (Lillie) Brennan (Anniversary)  
**Saturday 12th May** 10.00a.m. Available for Intention  
**Vigil** 7.00p.m. Colgan Family (Anniversaries)  
 Lizette & Lennie Murphy (Anniversaries)  
 Phyllis Bolger (Anniversary)  
**Sunday 13th May** 11.15a.m. People of the Parish  
 12.30p.m. Larry O'Reilly (Month's Mind )  
 Robert Gibson (Anniversary)  
 6.00p.m. Available for Intention

**Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball**

**Wednesday 9th May** 10.00a.m. Available for Intention  
**Sunday 13th May** 10.00a.m. Patrick Berry (Anniversary)  
 Henry Dillon (Anniversary)

**World Youth Day Panama – Jan 2019** - Pope Francis has invited young people from all over the world to join him in Panama next Jan 22nd – 27th. The theme will be "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). It is hoped that young people aged 16-29 from the Archdiocese of Dublin will travel. Cost €1,500-€1,900. For further information [wyd@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:wyd@dublindiocese.ie)

**Cemetery Masses**

St. Fintan's 12pm. June 10th (Please Note Change of Time)  
 Glasnevin Cemetery June 24th 3pm.  
 Dardistown Cemetery July 1st 3pm.

**Young Adults 20s & 30s - The Encounter**

**Fri. 18th May-8pm.** music and reflective prayer in adoration, with speakers on life, faith and purpose. Guest speaker – Hannah Evans [st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie)