We can all be extremely busy with work, family and parish commitments. In my case, it was a particular blessing to be able to assist two adults to receive the sacraments as part of our Donaghmede parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme. Our RCIA team had been working with both candidates for several months and it was great to see that both their fiancés also participated in the programme in order to support them. Having received the sacraments at Easter, they are both getting married over the summer, one in July and the other in August. This will add the Sacrament of Matrimony to those that they have already received, making it a particularly special year for all involved.

I first became involved with RCIA about 10 years ago shortly after we moved to Donaghmede. I could never have anticipated that 15 people (so far!) would have taken part in the programme over subsequent years. We have two new candidates who are interested in commencing the programme in September. I would encourage every parish to be welcoming to people who choose to become part of our faith community, so that we can share our experience of the Christian life with them and, through this experience, receive many blessings ourselves.

Today's Gospel is sometimes translated as Jesus giving us refreshment rather than rest. The difference I suppose is that refreshment allows us to begin again in a renewed way after some time off. Jesus was often telling his disciples to go to a quiet place in order to recover and to regain their strength. He understood that the human spirit needs to be renewed and reinvigorated especially after a busy time.

I would like to wish you all God's blessing for a happy and enjoyable summer and I hope that you get some time off for refreshment as your needs and circumstances permit. *Gerard Reilly*

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.dublindiocese.ie.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest"

Today's Gospel reading is perhaps appropriate for this time of the year. Jesus says:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

We are now in the holiday months of July and August when schools are closed and people can enjoy more free time. Some of us may be fortunate enough to be going away for a week or so and others may be staying closer to home. Whatever our circumstances, it is very important to have some "down time" over the next few weeks as our regular

commitments may become less demanding and hopefully the weather will stay mild so that we

9th July 2017

can enjoy the longer evenings and hopefully some sunshine.

I was over in the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin recently and it was wonderful to see all the flowers in full bloom. There is something wonderful about being able to smell the sweet scents of summer on a warm day and we are fortunate to be able to experience this so close to home.

The summer may also allow us to spend a little more time with Jesus whether at mass, at prayer or reading the scriptures. When we are going out for a walk or sitting in our back garden, it can be a great opportunity to return to a favourite reading in the bible or perhaps one of the readings of the day and reflect on what God may be saying to us in the particular circumstances of our lives.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



7th -12th September 2017 **Hotel Solitude** 5 Nights – Full Board **Fully Inclusive Price €725** 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



Eternal City, Rome

Thurs 28th Sep -Tues 3rd Oct Led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick Price €799.00 per person sharing B & B. For more information and to book please contact Anne in the Parish Office. Tel: 01 8375274. Few places remaining.

Special Collection – there are severe food shortages in South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia brought about by drought and conflict. Over half the population of Somalia (6.2 million people) is experiencing food shortages and malnutrition. There have also been major outbreaks of cholera across the country. South Sudan is on the brink of famine, with drought and conflict affecting millions. Millions of people in south-eastern Ethiopia and northern Kenya are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. On behalf of Irish Catholics, Trocaire is doing all it possibly can – currently helping over 150,000 people across the region with emergency food, water and sanitation. The need is enormous and the Bishop's Conference is responding by launching an emergency Church Appeal throughout Ireland to take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July 2017. I have no doubt that the parishioners of the Archdiocese of Dublin will support this appeal with compassion and generosity. Diarmuid Martin Archbishop of Dublin

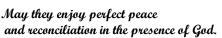
One Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

If you have thought about coming to Lough Derg but never managed to get there, or if you have been there in the past, and thought you will go back some day, let that some day be this year. A one day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg Saturday 26th August. Coach from Holy Child Church, Whitehall at 6.30am. Cost €60 includes bus, morning tea/coffee, light lunch, stay on Island. €20 deposit.

Contact McAllister 842 5678

Recently Deceased

You are asked to remember in vour Prayers: Nancy Butler Brigid Kilcommons, Seamus Dunne, Desmond Cassidy



The Strawberry Fayre This Sunday 9th July 2017 00 **10.30a.m. – 1.30p.m.** Come along and join the fun! There will be all kinds of strawberry goodies, meringues, pavlova, flans and strawberries and cream. We have home baked bread and cakes, and homemade jam and marmalade. Novelty stands, Wheel of Fortune, raffle with great prizes will be held. Please come and enjoy yourselves

Church Gate Collection

The collection this weekend is in aid of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Bric-a-Brac and Crafts will be there. A while supporting your Parish Centre.

We welcome in Baptism:

Kayden Lee O'Neill John James O'Donohue

May these newly baptised children always know and love *Iesus* as their friend.

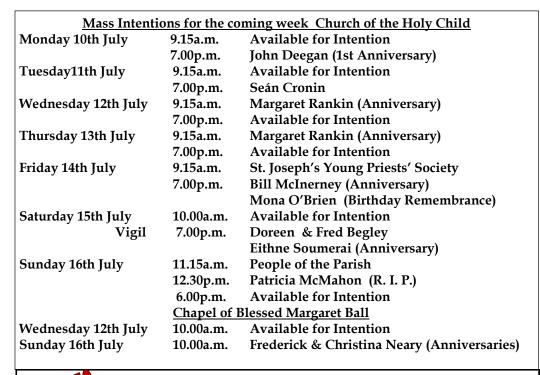
Fundraising Night

John Daly will be hosting a Mindfulness and Relaxation Class in Holy Child National School on Thursday July 13th 8-9.30pm. (Please bring a mat) Donations will be welcome for his daughter, Grace, who is currently volunteering in a dental hospital in Nepal. More info. Tel: John (086) 863 1689

Parish Office Due to staff

> holidays the Parish Office will be closed

from Monday 10th July and will reopen on Monday 24th July. The Newsletter will be taking a summer time break and will return in August.



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 2 14 16 20 2nd Jackpot: 9 15 21 30

No Jackpot winner. The winners of the Seven

Consolation prizes were:- J. McKevitt; F. Kelly: A. Flanagan:

E. McGinley: A. Dooley: & F. Byrne: M. Moloney: A. O'Meara.

The winners of the five extra prizes of €100 were:- V. Brennan: J. Butler:

T. Colgan: B. & M. Brady: S. McGeever.

Next Draw: 1st Jackpot €9,500 2nd Jackpot €2,000 Plus Seven Consolation Prizes of €25