

warps the soul.

When Jesus talks about 'the enemy' he is not necessarily referring to an enemy in war. He is talking about someone who is close to me – someone in my family, my community, my neighbourhood, my work-place, who is making life difficult for me.

Who are the people whom we seek to avoid at all costs, whom we find hard to forgive, who awaken in us feelings of unease, fear and anger which can easily turn into hatred?

The enemy can arouse hatred in us. When we discover our capacity to hate and harm, it is very humbling. At the same time this can be a good thing. It puts us in touch with our poverty. Then we discover perhaps that the enemy is not outside us but inside us. The problem is not with the other person but in ourselves. It is only when we recognise and look at the world of shadows, the chaos within us, that we can begin to travel toward freedom. Only the truth can set us free.

Our enemies are not those who hate us but those whom we hate. Jesus' command, 'Love your enemy', is a radical rejection of violence. Returning love for hate is one of the most difficult things in the world. It's a very high ideal, and a very difficult one, but it makes sense.

As Christians, we are on the side of non-violence. However, this is not an option for weakness and passivity. Opting for non-violence means believing more strongly in the power of truth, justice, and love than in the power of war, weapons and hatred. We must try to respond to the worst with the best.

As Christians we must try to imitate the generosity of God in our readiness to forgive, not to exact vengeance, or to bear a grudge against another. Unless Christians seek to imitate the all-embracing love of God, they are no better than others.

Mandela suffered much and suffered unfairly. Yet he achieved the only triumph worth achieving - that of not being soured by his suffering or tempted to the ultimate surrender of dignity by seeking revenge.

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.

A Better Way

19th February 2017

When Jesus says, 'Offer the wicked man no resistance,' he is not telling us to be passive in the face of physical danger or abuse. He is rejecting retaliation of any kind. We are not allowed to have hatred in our hearts for anything, even our enemies.

Hatred is a very dangerous thing. It must be handled with great respect. It should be kept for a cause such as intolerance or injustice, not for an

individual. This was the key to the success of Nelson Mandela.

Mandela spent over twenty-seven years in South African prisons. When he was finally released, he had every reason to feel bitter, and to come out vowing to get revenge on those who unjustly deprived him of his freedom. Instead, he came out smiling, and seeking reconciliation with the leaders of the regime that had put him in prison. Thus he

became the cornerstone of a new South Africa. If he had harboured bitterness, who knows what would have happened.



In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom* (1994), he tells us: I knew that people expected me to harbour anger against whites. but I had none. In prison, my anger towards whites decreased, but my hatred for the system grew. I wanted South Africa to see that I

loved even my enemies while I hated the system that turned us against one another. I saw my mission as one of preaching reconciliation, of healing the old wounds and building a new South Africa.

When we hate we expend far more energy than in any other emotion. We must save our strength for better things. Hate drives out everything else and corrodes and



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:
 1st Jackpot: 1 18 24 28 2nd Jackpot: 8 15 20 23
 There was no Jackpot winner.
 The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were:
 S. Murphy J. Fitzgibbon; M. Burke; G. Quinn;
 D. Smith; P. Caul; B. & T. McKane Next Week.



First Jackpot €4,750 Second Jackpot €2,000 plus seven consolation prizes of €25

ACCORD Dublin

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the family will be made at all Masses this weekend 18th/19th February. It will replace the usual SHARE collection. ACCORD Dublin needs your support so please give generously.

Ministers of the Word

Ministers of the Word are needed for Sunday (Saturday Vigil) Masses. If you would like to join this Ministry, please leave your name and phone number in the Sacristy or Parish Office.



Adult Faith Development Team Prayer for Lent

Fr. Donal Neary S.J. will speak about Prayer, on **Wed Feb 22nd at 7.30p.m. in the Parish Centre. All Welcome**



Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers:

Martina Bolton,
 George Miller
 Mary (Maureen) McArthur

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



Parish Lenten Retreat

For our Parish Lenten Retreat, Fr. Damian McNeice will invite us to a deeper look at icons of key Gospel scenes that feature during the Sundays of Lent & Holy Week. It reminds us

that "What was visible in our Saviour has passed over into His mysteries" (St. Leo the Great), the mysteries in which we have been immersed in the Sacraments.

**Wednesday, 8th March
 at 7.30p.m. in the Parish Centre.
 All Welcome**

Parish Pastoral Council – next meeting will take place on Wed 22nd Feb at 7.30p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Parish Pastoral Collection

This important Parish collection will take place next weekend 25th/26th Feb. The money we receive goes towards the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It ensures that each Team can be resourced and trained and therefore can give the best service to their ministry.

Could those who have agreed to help with this collection please come to the Sacristy before Mass next weekend and collect a basket. Many thanks for your continued help with this important Parish Collection.

Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

Monday 20th Feb 9.15a.m. Available for Intention
 7.00p.m. Margaret (1st Anniv) & Denis Kelly (Anniversary)
Tuesday 21st Feb 9.15a.m. & 7.00p.m. Available for Intention
Wednesday 22nd Feb. 9.15a.m. Available for Intention
 7.00pm. Catherine Ormsby (Anniversary)
Thursday 23rd Feb 9.15a.m. Annie Brennan (Anniversary)
 7.00p.m. Available for Intention
Friday 24th Feb 9.15a.m. Available for Intention
 7.00p.m. Mary Moriarty (First Anniversary)
Saturday 25th Feb 10.00a.m. Available for Intention
 Vigil
Sunday 26th Feb 7.00p.m. Brian Clarke, Michael Foye (Anniversary)
 11.15a.m. People of the Parish
 12.30p.m. Marian Buckley (Month's Mind),
 James Domican, Alice Murray (Anniversaries)
 Vera O'Brien, Hannah Raymond(Annivs)
 6.00p.m. Noreen Mullins (Anniversary)

Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

Wed. 22nd Feb 10.00a.m. Available for Intention
Sunday 26th Feb 10.00a.m. Available for Intention

The Fortysomethings

Are you in your 40s? The Dublin 40 somethings organise spiritual and social events for people in their 40s in and around Dublin who have a Catholic ethos. They invite you to go along and get involved. Their next monthly gathering is at the Trinity City Hotel, Pearse Street Street, Dublin 2 at 8.30pm on Friday 3 March. Then they have an evening Lenten Retreat at the Sacred Hearts, 66 Inchicore Road, Dublin 8, at 5.00pm on Saturday 11th March. Tel: 087 760 8268

Novena of Grace -The Carmelite Community invite you to Novena of Grace (Clongowes Wood Community) from March 4th to March 12th at 3.00pm (Monday – Saturday) and Sunday (4.00pm), Whitefriar Street. All welcome.

Spirituality Course: Manresa has offered training in the theory and practice of spiritual direction since the 1970s. Applications are currently being processed for enrolment in the Diploma in spirituality course currently validated by Maynooth. Find out more about this single opportunity email reception@manresa.ie

Parish Centre

Would you have a few hours free in the afternoon to help out in the Coffee Shop, Parish Centre? We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help out in the Coffee shop from 2p.m. – 4.30p.m. If available to help please contact Tina at 01 8375274

