

with them and sharing a cup of tea and a chat as a guest of one of the Traveller families in their home afterwards. No television cameras were present. That was a pity. The whole evening was so moving and joyful that it deserved wider attention for everyone involved.

He often made a point of choosing to celebrate with the poorest of parish communities during the important Holy Week ceremonies. On his way to one such parish on the Northside of Dublin for the Good Friday celebration of the Passion, Archbishop Connell decided to leave his carefully prepared homily in the car, realising that he needed to communicate in more direct conversation with the people. That day, his simple but profound homily lasted under two minutes and he spent the best part of an hour chatting to everyone after. Again, I heard the refrain: "He's much, much nicer than you'd think."

During World Youth Day celebrations in 2000, in sweltering conditions in Ostia outside Rome, Archbishop Connell realised that the hundreds of English speaking young people from all over the globe assembled before him to listen to his catechesis, red-faced and swigging from water bottles, needed to be treated with gentleness. He put aside his text and spoke for much shorter than the time allotted and in simple language drawn from his vast intellect about the beauty of Christ. He was a big hit. Young pilgrims came up to thank him after and said if they had a vote in the next conclave, they would be choosing him!

When once asked what name he would choose if he were elected Pope, Cardinal Connell first ruled out any possibility of that ever happening, but then replied with a mischievous twinkle in his eye: "I think I would choose the name Sixtus the Sixth. It would be a really tricky one to pronounce!"

The Cardinal stayed at the Irish College in Rome when attending various meetings and consistories in the Vatican. Polish students resident there were surprised to find someone of such high ecclesial rank engaging them in easy conversation, asking them about their studies and interests. In much of Poland, the people's experience of bishops and cardinals was more one of distant reserve. This led one of the Poles to ask quite bluntly: "Why are you so nice to us?" "But you are my brother priests!" Cardinal Connell replied. To their delight, he accepted invitations to attend their ordinations. His brother priests in Dublin too are aware of his pastoral kindness to many and of his deep integrity, even to the point of scrupulousness, a trait and sensitivity that could be misunderstood and misconstrued.

It's often when people have met Cardinal Connell, the Victorian gentleman, that rehashed lazy stereotypes of him were rightly melted.

That gentlemanliness will not be forgotten. See more at: www.dublindiocese.ie



PARISH OF LARKHILL/WHITEHALL/SANTRY



NEWSLETTER



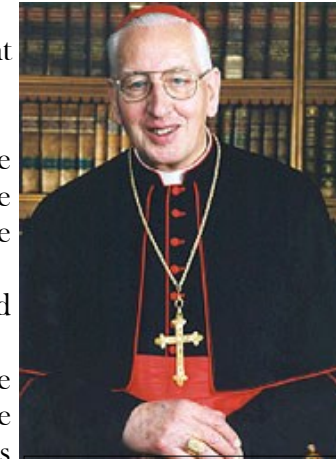
Parish of Larkhill/Whitehall & Santry Parish Office: Church of the Holy Child, The Thatch Road, Dublin 9. Tel (01) 837 5274 Website: www.whitehall.dublindiocese.ie.

"A Victorian Gentleman" By Rev. Damian McNeice

26th February 2017

The Cardinal dutifully obliged.

I remember accompanying Cardinal Connell to an event welcoming a new Board of Management in the Mater Hospital. It was during the time of crisis in the Diocese of Ferns in 2002. After the formal ceremony and a reception we were escorted by one of the board members back along the hospital corridors to where the Cardinal's car was parked. Our progress was interrupted several times as the Cardinal stopped along the way talking with concern and care to patients and their family members, asking how they were, how long they had been in. One Filipino family, in particular, were amazed and delighted that he came into the ward to bless their father and pray with them. Two of the hospital cleaning staff recognised him, dropped their mops and exclaimed with lilting inner city accents: "You look so much nicer than you do on the telly! Can I give ya a kiss?"



Cardinal Connell R.I.P.
24-3-1926 – 21-2-2017

The board member pulled me to one side by the elbow and whispered to me with a kind of hushed awe: "I'm seeing a side of this man I never knew existed." Working in the Diocesan Communications Office at the time, I explained that I had seen him like that on many, many occasions. I also thought to myself: I am not doing such a good job at communicating Cardinal Connell's immense capacity for kindness.

The evening of the following day I was with the Cardinal again, this time to drive him to the Mass of the Lord's Supper in St. Oliver's Park, Clondalkin, in the tiny Chapel of the Travelling People. There he was totally at ease in the packed chapel reverently washing the feet of members of the community, praying



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**

We welcome in Baptism:
Lily Julia O'Neill
James Daniel Curley
Lily Angela O'Donohue
Daisy Kitty Delaney



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

Ministers of the Word

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



Ministers of the Eucharist: Rosters for March are available on table in Reception area of the Parish Centre.

Novena of Grace

Our Novena of Grace devotions in honour of St. Francis Xavier begins on 4th March and continues to 12th March. Fr. Pat Littleton will preach at the 7p.m. Vigil Mass on the 4th March, the 10a.m. Mass in Blessed Margaret Ball on the 5th March and 7p.m. Mass on Monday 6th March in Holy Child.

Parish Pastoral Collection

This important Parish collection will take place this 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 this weekend and collect a basket. Many thanks for your continued help with this important Parish Collection.**

Ash Wednesday 1st March Day of Fast & Abstinence

Ashes will be blessed and distributed as part of the Penitential Preparation for Mass.
Holy Child Mass Times: 9.15a.m. and 7pm.
Blessed Margaret Ball Mass Time: 10am.

Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers:
Cardinal Desmond O'Connell
Bernadette Lyons



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



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 7th -12th September 2017

Hotel Solitude ****

5 Nights – Full Board – Fully Inclusive Price €725

Spiritual Director Rev. Tom Kearney

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



Please Support your Parish Lotto

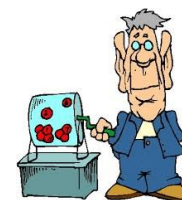
Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 1 2 7 16 2nd Jackpot: 5 9 18 20

There was no Jackpot winner.

The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were:

E. Whitford; S. Murphy; J. Killoran; B. & M. Brady; P. Chapman; B. Hewitt; L. & M. Kelly.



Next Week. First Jackpot €5,000 Second Jackpot €2,000 plus 7 seven consolation prizes of €25

Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

Monday 27th Feb	9.15a.m. William O'Keeffe (Anniversary) 7.00p.m. Available for Intention
Tuesday 28th Feb	9.15a.m. John Martin (Anniversary) 7.00p.m. Paul Towell (R.I.P.) Teresa O'Grady (R.I.P.)
Wednesday 1st Mar.	9.15a.m. Noel McGarry (Anniversary) 7.00pm. Available for Intention
Thursday 2nd Mar.	9.15a.m. Jimmy Kelly (Anniversary) 7.00p.m. Available for Intention
Friday 3rd Mar.	9.15a.m. Altar List of the Dead 7.00p.m. Altar List of the Dead
Saturday 4th Mar. Vigil	10.00a.m. Helen Byrne (Month's Mind) 7.00p.m. Des Costello (1st Anniversary) Gerard Fry, (Anniversary) Jack & Bridget Drumm, Patricia & Henry Garland (Annivs.)
Sunday 5th Mar.	11.15a.m. People of the Parish 12.30p.m. Owen & Nellie O'Reilly, Joseph Garland, Vincent Kavanagh, Seán & Paul Crowe (Anniv) 6.00p.m. Thomas Norris (Anniversary) Nicholas Moran (R.I.P.)
Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball	
Wed. 1st Mar.	10.00a.m. Available for Intention
Fri. 3rd Mar.	10.00a.m. Altar List of the Dead
Sunday 5th Mar.	10.00a.m. Tom Tyrell, Jo & Liam Dornan, & Peggy Eaton, Sadie Redmond (Anniversaries)