

is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Saint John Henry Newman wrote about the vocation of Saint Matthias who was elected by the remaining eleven apostles to replace Judas. He said:

"We take the place of others who have gone before, as Matthias did; filling up the ranks of soldiers, some of whom, indeed, have fought a good fight, but many of whom in every age have made void their calling. Many are called, few are chosen."

These words speak as powerfully to us today as they did when they were written in the 19th century. We stand in the places of those who have inspired and encouraged us in the ministry over the years. People who have given us the confidence to bring the message of to the people of our own times. This is our response to the great missionary call of Jesus in Matthew 28 to *"Go make disciples of all nations."*

Pope Francis has recently established the ministry of catechist which is open to women and men. This offers great possibilities. He said:
"In the context of evangelisation in the contemporary world and in the face of "the rise of a globalised culture," it is necessary to recognise "those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis."
Earlier this month, Archbishop Dermot Farrell spoke on this subject when he said: *"I am inviting women and men who feel that they are called to ministry to come forward to train for ministry as instituted lectors or acolytes or catechists. These are lay ministers, women and men, who are publicly recognised by the Church and appointed by the diocese to minister alongside priests and deacons in leading liturgies, supporting adult faith formation, and accompanying families preparing for the sacraments. I will appoint pastoral leaders – deacons, religious and lay people – where necessary when parishes cannot have a resident priest, to support the priest who will have pastoral responsibility for that parish. It is my pastoral responsibility, as Bishop, to do this – for the sake of the gospel, and for the sake of the People of God. Christ brought his disciples along a new way. He calls us to find a new way in our time."*

We should all consider and support this important initiative as we respond to the challenges facing the church in our time.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Malahide and Portmarnock 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.dublindioocese.ie.

*"Once the hand is laid on the plough,
no one who looks back is fit
for the kingdom of God."*

26th June 2022

We have an opportunity to become a vibrant and authentic

This Sunday we return to Ordinary time following the five weeks of the Easter Season followed by the Feasts of Pentecost, the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi. There is a sense of returning to normality after a period of celebration. It's

a bit like returning to work after an enjoyable family wedding. And, in a way our readings today reflect this reality. They are about the call to discipleship and what's involved in accepting this calling.

We can see this in our Gospel today and also in the call of Elisha in our First Reading. There is a German theologian called Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote a book called "The Cost of Discipleship" which examines the challenges that we all face as Christians and in living the Christian life in our society today. The Christian life is not always easy and bring with its obstacles, challenges and difficulties.



people of faith who are inspired by Jesus Christ, who can offer witness to the Christian way of life who can support those who are most in need.

It is good time for us to reflect on our own mission and ministry from the priesthood that we all received at our baptism. It may be a ministry of saying a prayer perhaps in the morning and the evening, a ministry of being friendly to people we encounter, a ministry of assisting others who are less well off than we are, a ministry of supporting charities, a ministry of music if you have that talent or a ministry to read during mass in the church. There are many things that we can do. And let us be encouraged in our efforts by the words of Jesus himself in today's Gospel where he encourages us to accept our missionary calling. Jesus tells us in today's Gospel: *"Once the hand*

