

### Pilgrimage to Knock

Thursday, 8th December. Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Coach from Holy Child at 8a.m.

For more info and to book please contact Marie McAllister  
Tel: 086 3990998



**Crosscare Christmas Food Poverty Appeal.** 2022 has been very difficult for families coming to Crosscare needing help. For the first time in many years, they have seen a rise in the number of working families struggling with ongoing increases in the cost of living. The demands of Christmas put even more pressure on people already finding it hard to make ends meet. This Christmas, they are asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where Crosscare supports families who find it hard to provide nutritious food. Sadly, almost 800 families and individuals, including 1,000 children, have needed help from the Service this year and demand is likely to increase in the coming months. Crosscare ensures they have a good supply of food while at the same time looking at all the issues that may have brought them into food poverty. If you can, you can donate online at [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie) or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, Dublin D07 Y768. Envelopes will also be made available in all Parish Churches.

### We welcome in Baptism:

Seamus Patrick Rowley  
Rebecca Lily O'Connor

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



### Recently Deceased:

We remember our friends and loved ones who have recently died in Christ.

Bridget Teresa O'Driscoll

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



**PARISH CAROL SERVICE**  
Combined Parish  
Choirs & Folk Group  
directed by Kathryn Browne  
Present  
the first Carol Service since  
Covid

**11th December 2022 at 7.30p.m.**  
in the Holy Child.  
All Welcome

Phone found in Church of the Holy Child approx. two weeks ago. Please contact the Sacristan for details. 01 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).

## First Sunday of Advent

27th November 2022

*"Advent calls to mind that our God came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, and that God comes to us again and again in the events of our lives"*

The Season of Advent, which begins today, invites us to journey reflectively as a parish community towards Christmas. It's a short, compact season of just four weeks allowing us time for much needed reflection and prayer before the busyness of Christmas begins.

The light and hope of Advent is symbolised by the precious flames from our Advent wreath which can shine Christ's love into the darker parts of our lives over the past year whether this is bereavement, illness, depression or disappointment. We can be sure that Jesus will always accompany us through our doubts, difficulties and challenges. Our First reading today from the prophet



Isaiah invites us to "walk in the light of the Lord." But it's a slowly revealed light which is appropriate for this time of the year. It will only be on Christmas day that all candles on the wreath will be light. It's a symbol that God's plan is sometimes revealed

slowly to us.

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year when our Sunday gospel readings change from Luke to Matthew. So, in a way, we turn a page today as we start the new liturgical year. Pope Francis says: "Thanks to [God's] help, we can always start afresh". "You can start again, because [Christ] awaits you, He is close to you, He loves you, and He is merciful. ... We are able to open our eyes again, overcome sadness and tears and sing a new song."

It is really important that you take

some time out during Advent to reflect on the reality of Christmas and what God's mercy and forgiveness means for us. Our parish Advent Reconciliation Service which takes place closer to Christmas on Wednesday, 21st December at 7.00p.m., will provide one such opportunity to do this. I believe that we need to reclaim Advent as a much needed space to reflect on our faith. Today's Gospel tells us that "*The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*" This reminds us that we are passing through this World and need to make the most of the gifts that God has given to each of us.

Perhaps we could attend mass more regularly this Advent, wherever we happen to be, and make it a time of prayer and reflective anticipation. If we are sending Christmas Cards why not chose cards with a distinctly religious theme and message. Also, it is a time of giving and sharing with those in need. The St. Vincent de Paul collection, which will take place in our churches in the coming weeks, will provide an opportunity to help those who are most in need in our community.

During Advent, let us allow ourselves some moments of stillness and quiet, so that we can listen to what God may be saying to us at this time of the year. Our world today is impatient and unwilling to wait for things to happen. There is a sense in our society that things have to happen almost instantly. We have lost the sense of quiet anticipation. And I think that's what the Season of Advent may be trying to teach us. In the busy weeks to come, we are encouraged to take some "time out" to think about the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As the poet Patrick Kavanagh reminds us in his poem Advent: "*Christ comes with a January flower.*"

Archbishop Dermot Farrell said: "*Advent is the time the Church calls to mind that our God came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, and that God comes to us again and again in the events of our lives, in the silence of our hearts, in our Risen Lord, and will come again at the end of our lives, and at the end of time.*" As the Archbishop reminds us, "*Christ is present to us not only in the Word and Sacrament, but also in the people who surround us.*" In the silence of Advent may we be inspired to reach out to others as Jesus did: to those who find this time of the year difficult, to those who are left out by other people and to those in need of healing words and gestures of kindness.

I wish you all a peaceful and prayerful Season of Advent.

Gerard Reilly - Permanent Deacon in Malahide and Portmarnock parishes



### Mass Intentions for the coming week Church of the Holy Child

Sat 26th Nov	7.00p.m.	Mary Graham – 1st Anniversary Bernard Allen – 1st Anniversary Michael & John Gibney – Anniversaries Joe Hayes – Anniversary
Sun 27th Nov	10.30a.m.	Mary McDermott – Anniversary Jim & Bill Smith – Anniversaries Robert Power – Birthday Remembrance Joe & Eileen O'Connor – Anniversaries
	12.30p.m.	Mary & Michael Myler – Anniversaries Dermot Brangan – Anniversary John & Mary Cruise – Anniversaries
Mon 28th Nov	9.15a.m.	Thomas McDonagh – Anniversary
Tues 29th Nov	9.15a.m.	For the intentions of all those who attended the funeral, sent Mass Cards and sympathised with the O'Prey family on the death of Michael.
Wed 30th Nov	9.15a.m.	Jim Hallissey – Anniversary
Thurs 1st Dec	9.15a.m.	Helena Foran – Anniversary
Fri 2nd Dec	9.15a.m.	Altar List of the Dead
Sat 3rd Dec	7.00p.m.	Anthony Groves – Month's Mind Ann Corcoran – Anniversary
Sun 4th Dec	10.30a.m.	Margaret (Rita) Brady – Recently Deceased Frances O'Byrne – 1st Anniversary Anthony Kinnear – 1st Anniversary Anne Galvin – Anniversary
	12.30p.m.	Imelda Macken – Month's Mind Benny McDonald – Anniversary
<b><u>Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball</u></b>		
Sun 27th Nov	10.00a.m.	Michael Campelli – Anniversary
Wed 30th Nov	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Sun 4th Dec	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention

### **Retreat at Mercy Centre**

5pm on Thursday, December 1, to 4pm on Sunday, December 4.

This three-day retreat will provide participants with space to step back from the day-to-day and focus on preparation for Christmas, the birth of new stirrings, and a deeper calling to connection. We will explore the Gospel messages of the Advent season and the journey of the Magi from searching to discovering.

Residential: €385. Non-residential: €185. To express your interest please email [programmes@mercyinternational.ie](mailto:programmes@mercyinternational.ie). More information is available at <https://www.mercyworld.org/our-centre/programmes/advent-retreat/>.