

to their flocks glorifying and praising God.

All of us are touched by fear. But we must not allow our fears to cripple us. What we have to do is move from fear to faith. Trust is the thing that enables us to turn fear into faith. And here is where Christmas can be a great help. Somehow it is easier to trust in God at Christmas than at any other time, because we feel that God is very close to us and very loving towards us at this time. In Jesus, God comes to us in the form of a child. And surely no one can be afraid of a child?

Christmas challenges us to enter into an intimate relationship with God, trusting that we will receive love, and always more love.

By all means, let us do whatever we can to improve our situation. But having done that, let us leave what is outside our control in the hands of God. We must take courage. Fear can be an opportunity, even a grace. It can force us to trust in God rather than in ourselves. Loneliness too can be a grace. So, if we should feel lonely at Christmas, let us not be alarmed. Our hearts are always longing for something more, or rather for Someone else. In every human heart there is an empty chamber waiting for a guest. That guest is God.

Christmas Mass Times Holy Child
Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th
10.00a.m., 7.00 p.m., Mass of Christmas Eve for Children and Families
9.00 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th
8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 11.15 a.m.,
12.30 p.m.

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day
St. Stephen's Day
Monday, December 26th—10.00 a.m.
From Tuesday December 27th to
Friday 30th December—10.00a.m.
Saturday December 31st—10.00a.m. &
7p.m. (Vigil)
Sunday January 1st—11.15a.m.,

Blessed Margaret Ball

Christmas Eve
Saturday December 24th
6.00p.m. Mass of Christmas Eve for Children and Families
8.30 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas.

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th
10.00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday December 28th
10.00 a.m. Mass.

Sunday 1st
Janu- ary—



Sacrament of Reconciliation Church of the Holy Child

Monday, December 19th at 7.30p.m.
Individual Confession—Christmas Eve Confessions
Saturday, December 24th after 10.00a.m. Mass until 12noon
Blessed Margaret Ball
Christmas Eve Confessions—Saturday, December 24th



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.

Fear at Christmas

18th December 2016

There are people who fear, maybe even dread, the approach of Christmas. It's not Christmas itself that causes this fear—I mean the religious side of it. The source of this fear lies elsewhere.

For some it's the hassle and the extra work that makes them fearful. For others it's the strain put on their already overstretched finances by the Christmas splurge. For others it's fear of the conflicts that sometimes occur in families at Christmas time. And for others it is the fact that Christmas reawakens painful memories—the memory of a death or a tragedy that occurred around this time.

Also where there has been a loss during the year, that loss is felt again, intensely, at Christmas. The sight of others surrounded by loved ones reopens a wound that perhaps was beginning to heal. The result is an intense loneliness. Finally, one's fears may result from advancing age, with the infirmities and sense of mortality this brings with it.

But those who fear the approach of Christmas can take heart and hope from the story of the first Christmas. There was plenty of fear present in it too. In fact, all of the main characters in it were afraid at one time or another.

Joseph was afraid when he found that Mary was expecting a child even though they hadn't yet lived together. But an angel appeared to him in a dream and said to him, 'Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit' - words we hear in today's Gospel. Joseph, the just man, trusted God, and so overcame his fear and did what was right.

Mary was afraid on hearing the greeting of the angel Gabriel. But the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour.' The angel went on to tell her that she was to conceive and bear a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, and she must name him Jesus. Mary trusted God, and so overcame her fear and said 'Yes' to what he was asking of her.

And the shepherds were afraid. The Gospel says that when the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, they were terrified. But the angel said, 'do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of a great joy.... Today a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.' And they trusted God, went to Bethlehem, saw the child, and returned

Parish Carol Service –A word of appreciation is more than due to all who were involved in our Annual Carol Service, making it a glorious parish occasion of music, readings from Scripture and reflections. Having publicly acknowledged individual contributions (hopefully without forgetting to mention anybody) I congratulate all who helped the evening run so smoothly and beautifully. God’s Housekeepers presented the church spic and span as usual; Ministers of the Word read excellently and our Sacristans provided great back up to the presentation. Music is of the essence of course and thanks first of all to Brendan Shanahan for his uplifting contribution. Our gratitude to Caroline and the Blessed Margaret Ball Folk Group whose offering enhanced the service. It is always wonderful to see young people involved and the Youth Choir, directed so well by Katie Judge deserve great praise. Huge congratulations to Kathryn Browne, Musical Director and the Parish Choir who pulled out all the stops for the evening. The organising committee put in a huge amount of work and it ensured that everything was so professionally carried through. Finally, to all who attended in such great numbers; you came not so much as an audience as supporters and participants. Thank you. *Fr. John Jones*



We welcome in Baptism:



Alfie Anthony Reardon
Freyakate Ghassemi Bridgeman
Layla Maddison Shropshire

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

NEW CHURCH ORGAN

Fund raising for the new organ has now begun and we are delighted to say that €1,270 was raised at the Carol Service. All donations will be gratefully accepted in the Sacristy or Parish Office.



Thanks - our sincere thanks to Jim Soden who organised the delivery of the Planned Giving Boxes and the Parish Christmas Cards. Thanks also to Paddy Magee who packed and labelled both the boxes and the cards and the team of volunteers who delivered them. We greatly appreciate all the dedication and hard work that goes into this huge task each year.

Recently Deceased:

You are asked to remember in your Prayers:

Margaret Whitehead
Daniel Kearns John Hanlon
George Robinson



Senior Help Line

Ireland’s only national listening service for older people, will be open every day over Christmas and the New Year from 10.00a.m. to 10.00p.m. They are there to take your call if you are on your own, feeling isolated, worried or would like someone to talk to. Christmas can be a sad time for many people, and in the midst of apparent universal gaiety, some of us can feel very alone. Senior Help Line volunteers are trained older people who understand the ups and downs of life, and are happy to listen, to keep company and to support. So let us put companionship into Christmas this year. LoCall 1850 440 444. No call costs more than 30 cents. All calls completely confidential.



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday’s winning numbers were:

1st Jackpot: 13 17 22 26 2nd Jackpot: 6 15 26 27

There was no Jackpot winner. The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: E. Silva : K. McKee: T. Tierney: P. Grogan: M. Campbell: E. Dempsey: T. Flood. **Next Weeks Jackpots: First Jackpot €2,750**
Second Jackpot €2,000 Plus 7 consolation prizes of €25



Mass Intentions for the coming week

Church of the Holy Child

Monday 19th December	9.15a.m.	James & Michelle Fannin (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	James Coleman, Rosemary O’Kennedy, Michelle & James Fannin (Anniversaries)
Tuesday 20th December	9.15a.m.	Aileen Caulfield (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Joe, Judy & deceased members of the Noonan Family, Eileen, Seán & deceased members of the Torphy Family RIP
		Jo Coy (Anniversary) & deceased members of the Bonnor family RIP
Wednesday 21st Dec.	9.15a.m.	John McCann (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Chander Kumar Arora (Birthday Remem)
		Liam Bollard, John Keogh (Anniversaries)
Thursday 22nd Dec.	9.15a.m.	Monica O’Brien (Anniversary)
	7.00p.m.	Jimmy Halpin (Anniversary)
		Special Intention
Friday 23rd Dec.	9.15a.m.	Deceased members of the Tully Family RIP
	7.00p.m.	Richard Ormsby, Christine Brennan, Frances Murphy (Anniversaries)
Saturday 24th December	10.00a.m.	Eve Dunne (Birthday Remembrance)
	Vigil 7.00p.m.	Mass of Christmas for Children & Families
	Vigil 9.00p.m.	Night Mass for Christmas
Sunday 25th December	8.30a.m., 10.00a.m., 11.15a.m., 12.30p.m. Mass for Christmas	
		No evening Mass

Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball

Wed. 21st December	10.00a.m.	Available for Intention
Sunday 25th Dec.	10.00a.m.	Christmas Mass

Carol Singing at the Mansion House – Annual Ecumenical Carol singing on the steps of the Mansion house – Dawson Street -(run by the Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism) will take place on Sat, Dec 17th at 2.30p.m. The singing will be led by Crumlin Community Choir. Seasonal readings by the Lord Mayor, Brendan Carr, Eileen Dunne (RTE), V. Rev. Bryan Shortall OFM Cap (Parish Priest Halston St.), Rev. Rosemary Lindsay (Methodist Church) and Dr. Iva Beranek (Church’s Ministry of Healing). Everyone is invited to come and join in the singing of favourite carols. All takes place beside the live Animal Crib, where there will be a “Winter Wonderland.”