

and fully human. It was because he was fully divine, a full image of God, that he was also fully human. The more Christ grows within us, the more human we become – the more we become the person that God has created us to be.

A good Advent question to ask is, 'Who would I like to become this Advent, so as to make Christmas special for others?'

We may be tempted to think that 'I am who I am and I am not going to become anyone else, I am not going to change.' Yet, God is always calling us to grow into his Son. God never ceases to call us to change. God is patient with us when we appear to be deaf to that call. God waits patiently on us to admit Christ more fully into our lives. God's waiting on us is not a passive waiting, a kind of standing back to wait and see. God's patient waiting is expressed actively. God sends us messengers to help us to create space in our lives for Christ to come and grow within us. God is actively involved in helping us to prepare a way for the Lord. God's messengers, God's help, can take many and varied forms. Advent is a time to become more alert to the resources that God offers us to grow into the person of Christ.

Source: *Jesus Our Servant* – Fr. Martin Hogan

Prayers for the second week of Advent:

God's Word:

'Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.

The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near'. *From the letter of St. James 5,7-8*

Jesus, love of all loving, in the ploughed-up earth of our lives you come to plant the trusting of faith.

A small seed at first, faith can grow and keep alive the inexhaustible goodness of a human heart.

[we pray for all those we carry in our hearts and our intentions]

Bless us, Christ Jesus; in you our hearts find peace



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.

Second Sunday of Advent

4th December 2016

At this time of year we think about buying Christmas presents for people. We may be at the stage of asking people what they would like for Christmas. People may already have been asking us the same question, and we might have found ourselves wondering, 'What do I want for Christmas?'

This second Sunday of Advent might prompt us to ask a deeper question of ourselves, 'What does God want for me, for us, this season of Advent?' If we were to put that question to John the Baptist who appears in today's Gospel reading, 'What does God want of us?', he would likely say back to us, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' He would say to us, 'What God wants for you this Advent is that you make way for the coming of God's Son, that you receive him more fully into your lives.' That is the fundamental call of Advent, 'Receive the Lord who is coming.' That primary call of Advent is matched by the primary prayer of Advent, 'Come, Lord Jesus.' In praying that prayer, we are expressing our desire to receive the Lord more fully into our lives, to grow in our relationship with him.

Advent is a season when we are called

to allow Christ to grow in us. The great saint of Advent, apart from John the Baptist, is Mary. Mary's Advent was that nine month period when Jesus physically grew within her, until she was ready to offer him to the world. Our Advent is much shorter than Mary's, four weeks in all, but it is also the time when we are called to allow Jesus to grow spiritually within us, so that we can offer him to the world by the lives that we live. The call to allow Jesus to grow within us may first be heard as a call to repent, which is the call that John the Baptist makes in today's Gospel reading. To repent is to turn away from what is not of the Lord and to turn towards what is of the Lord. If the Lord is to grow within us, there will always be something that we have to turn away from or let go of. Advent invites us to look at what there might be in our lives that is blocking Christ from growing in us.

There is a lot of emphasis today on personal growth and personal development. People, quite rightly, want to live full lives. As Christians, however, we believe that we grow as persons to the extent that Christ grows within us. Jesus was both fully divine

Date to remember!

Combined Parish Choirs
present
THE ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE
Sunday, 11th December 2016 at 7.30p.m.



in Church of the Holy Child
All welcome.



NEW CHURCH ORGAN
Music plays an important role
in our church liturgies
throughout the year.

Our parish is blessed with a number of music groups who help to raise our hearts and minds to God. Our Church Organ will need to be replaced in the near future. Fund raising for the new organ is now being launched. Any donations will be gratefully accepted. The collection at the annual Christmas Carol Service on the 11th December at 7.30p.m. will be in aid of the new organ fund.



Parish Radio for the Housebound

Do you have a parish radio at home but no longer in use? If so, would you be willing to give it to a parishioner who needs it? Radios can be handed into the church shop, or to the sacristy.

Church Shop

Advent calendars, 2017 diaries and Church Art calendars now in stock. Great selection of Christmas cards. **New this year: Parish of Larkhill/Whitehall/Santry Christmas cards.**

**Thursday 8th December-
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation**

Schedule of Masses:
Church of the Holy Child – Wed. 7th Dec. Vigil 7.00pm
Thursday 8th Dec – 9.15a.m., 11.15a.m. and 7.00p.m.
Blessed Margaret Ball: 10.00a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council – The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30p.m.

Dublin Diocesan Food Appeal

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has asked that parishioners support Crosscare Food Appeal as Christmas approaches. Food may be brought to the Church of the Holy Child and the Chapel of Blessed Margaret Ball this weekend 3rd/4th December.

Suggested items for donation:-pasta/ rice, fruit juice, tea/ coffee, soup, sugar, biscuits, tinned meat/ fish, tinned veg/ fruit, powdered milk, hygiene products.

Please leave all donations outside the Oratory in the Church of the Holy Child & with the Sacristan in Blessed Margaret Ball



Recently Deceased: You are

asked to remember in your Prayers: John Hyland
Derek Claxton
Anto Broughan

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



Please Support your Parish Lotto

Last Tuesday's winning numbers were:
1st Jackpot: 6 8 10 23 2nd Jackpot: 6 8 11 28
There was no Jackpot winner.



The winners of the seven prizes of €25 were: B. & T. Brown:
P. McGuirk: J. Coleman: S. Noonan: N. Costello: T. Stafford: M. Maguire:
Next Weeks Jackpots: First Jackpot €2,250 Second Jackpot €2,000
Plus seven Consolation Prizes of €25 & Five Special Prizes of €100

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will be held next weekend 10th & 11th Dec. It will replace the SHARE Collection.

Charity Concert: "Voices from the Pro Cathedral" on Tues. 13th Dec. at 7.30pm in aid of Bro. Kevin Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless and Dogs Aid Animal Rescue.

St. Francis Hospice: Festival of Carols in St. Agatha's Church, North William St. Dublin 1 on Monday 12th Dec. at 7.30pm. All proceeds to St. Francis Hospice, Raheny.

Listen to Celine Byrne, Johnny Logan, Linda Martin, Secret Garden, The Boys of Palestrina Choir & St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral Girls' Choir readings from Anne Doyle, Mary Kennedy, Sharon Ní Bheoláin, Derek Mooney & Maureen O'Sullivan. Tickets at Door.

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

Monday 5th December	9.15a.m. Special Intention 7.00p.m. Available for Intention
Tuesday 6th December	9.15a.m. Sarah Comiskey (Anniversary) 7.00p.m. Florence Farren (Anniversary)
Wednesday 7th Dec. Vigil	9.15a.m. Available for Intention 7.00p.m. James Andrews (Anniversary) Deceased members of the Andrews Family
Thursday 8th Dec.	9.15a.m., 11.15a.m. & 7.00p.m.
Friday 9th December 9.15a.m. St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society	7.00p.m. Fr. John O'Callaghan (Anniversary)
Saturday 10th December Vigil	10.00a.m. Available for Intention 7.00p.m. Deceased members of the Cantwell Family John & Marjorie Mooney, Eamonn Hanlon Maureen O'Beara (Anniversaries) Maureen Scahill (RIP Birthday Remembrance)
Sunday 11th December	11.15a.m. People of the Parish 12.30p.m. John Conheady (Anniversary) Catherine & Joe Briscoe (Anniversary) 6.00p.m. Available for Intention
Wed. 7th December	10.00a.m. The O'Brien Family (Anniversaries)
Thursday 8th Dec.	10.00a.m. Available for Intention