APRIL 2015

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org

Dear Parishioners and other friends,

I found the following article in the Church of Ireland Gazette which is delivered weekly to Rathmichael Church, and figured it is was worth sharing here:-

"Life Lines Stephen Fry: angry man"

"As with Russell Brand on politics, celebrity pronouncements must be heeded. Stephen Fry's "utterly evil, capricious and monstrous God said on a RTE TV programme hosted by Gay Byrne, has gone viral. It ought to be said that in an interview Fry gave to the magazine, *Christianity Today*, the issues were teased out in a more considered way, but- it was the RTE programme that has commanded all the attention.

BBC Radio Ulster's morning news programme on Monday 2nd February shone no light here. Michael Nugent, of Atheist Ireland, and the Free Presbyterian minister, David McIlveen, in the red and blue corners respectively, threw Bible verses at each other in true literalist style and I, for one, groaned inwardly.

Entertainment - it might have been (debatable ...); edifying - it certainly was not. It was at least exemplary as a dialogue of the deaf. Some atheist comments on the Christian understanding of God are, in the words of one renowned atheist, the late Douglas Adams, due to three things: first, ignorance; second, stupidity; and third, nothing else.

Similar comments could be made about some of the 'Christian' responses to Fry's tirade, motivated, it seems to me, more by the desire to serve up neat answers than to seek for a proper understanding of what it means to try to make sense of a world where disease is part of what we see on our TV screens every day.

Gay Byrne did not help when, confronted with Fry's tirade, he asked him if he thought that he would get into heaven with that sort of attitude ("And you think you are going to get in, like that?"). That simply reinforces the idea that Christians believe what they believe as a sort of celestial insurance policy. Maybe there was a time when that was a prevailing attitude in churches, but not now. Churches that I know are composed of people who want to live to the full in the here and now, serving others, motivated by their faith. That is why Prime Minister David Cameron can acknowledge the substantial part that faith communities play in the life of the nation.

It's also more in tune with the good news in Christ that the Bible proclaims.

There was, however, something in Fry's tirade which went, so far as I can discern, unnoticed. Commenting on the vexed problem of disease, and disease in children in particular, he said that if he could speak to God at the pearly gates about such suffering, he would say to him: "You could easily have made a creation in which that didn't exist. It is simply not acceptable."

Below the surface of what was said here, with its justifiable concern at suffering, lurks the voice of western affluent consumerism. What would apparently please him (and probably others, and probably others for that matter) would be a terribly nice God who would ensure that everything was always terribly nice. This prompts me speculate as follows:



First, it is no use blaming human sin for the diseases we see. Some of it, yes: all of it, definitely not. The issue goes far deeper than that and Christians, as well everyone else, in a world better educated than ever before, should apply minds accordingly.

Second, I take it as read (making me unpopular with some) that the living world is the way that it is through the biological processes of evolution. That means we are here (amazing in itself) and able to argue about these issues.

It also means, because evolutionary processes are open rather than minutely pre-programmed, that all sorts of results can ensue, including genetic mutations that lead to all sorts of diseases.

This is not offered as a neat answer. It is something about which we should remain profoundly challenged, whether we are religious believers of any persuasion or of none.

Third, I suspect the kind of world Fry envisages is one that could only come about at the hands of a puppetmaster-god who would minutely control everything. Human freedom? I doubt it. Fry and others would probably want to complain to that god as well.

Fourth, there are all sorts of atheists out there. Some are deeply committed after much thought about it all. Others are armchair atheists glad to find that they need to believe in nothing at all, apart from the pursuit of their personal happiness. Others don't know and are confused by atheist and Christian voices alike.

This, whether we like it or not, is the landscape in which now find ourselves. We might not like it, but this is where we are, nevertheless. "

Rev. Dr. Ron Elsdon

I commend Prof. Mathew McCauley's article on Grief inside also.

The Holy Week Services are listed on Page 2.

EASTER DAY SERVICES

08.30 hrs. HOLY COMMUNION

11.00 hrs. HOLY COMMUNION

Please come a little earlier to the 11.00 a.m., bring some flowers and help to decorate the Cross in Celebration of the Risen Lord.

With every blessing,

CHURCH SERVICES - APRIL 2015

SUNDAY	08.30 hrs	11.00 hrs	19.00 hrs	LECTORS
EASTER DAY White 5th April 2015	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 25: 6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 John 20: 1-18	EVENING PRAYER	Avril McWilliams
The SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER White 12th April 2015	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Isaiah 26: 2-9, 19 Psalm 133 John 20: 19-31 Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	Ingrid Baugh
The THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER White 19th APRIL 2015	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Micah 4: 1-5 Psalm 4 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b-48	COMPLINE	Ronnie Whelan
The FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER White 26th APRIL 2015	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Ezekiel 34: 1-10 Psalm 23 John 10: 11-18 Please join us for coffee after the service		Marian Conboy

HOLY WEEK SERVICES	5
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Speaker: Professor Freddie Wood,

WEDNESDAY	20.00 hrs	EVENING SERVICE	Cardiothoracic Surgeon. <i>"The attributes needed to be a "Good Doctor".</i> Prof. Wood is the surgeon who operated on my ole ticker in 2000!!
MAUNDY THURSDAY	20.00 hrs	CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHRIST	Canon Cecil Hyland will celebrate the Eucharist and preach. A dear and trusted friend of mine.
GOOD FRIDAY	10.30 hrs	MORNING SERVICE	
	20.00 hrs	EVENING SERVICE	

APRIL ROTAS

CHURCH, BRASS AND HALL CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS	HALL
4th April	Beverley East	Sheila Thomson	
11th	Beverley East		Sarah Campbell
18th		Sonia appelbe	
25th	Jill Bolton	Corinne Hewat	

SUNDAY CLUB

	4-6 YRS	7-8 YRS	10-12 YRS
19th April	Debbie Duncan	Jane White	Karen Grosso
3rd May	Carol Beamish	Niamh Ann McCann	Sam Stott

SUNDAY CRECHE

5th Easter Sunday - Jan Ovington12th Family Service19th Sarah Campbell

Fernanda Power

26th



THE THURSDAY GROUP



We will meet on Thursday 16th April at 10.30 a.m. in the home of

Prof. Keith and Mrs. Gill Tipton, Cherrywood Lodge, Loughlinstown.

We can arrange lifts - contact Anne @ 2824202.

5th Easter Day

19th & 26th Jill Allen

CHURCH COFFEE

12th Barbara McWilliam

Jill Allen - Susi French

Anne Golden

26th Olivia Uhlar - Oonagh Cosgrave

Barbara Fagan - Fernanda Power

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



The book chosen for April is "OrphanTrain" by Christina Baker Kline and the meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th April, 2015 at 8.00p.m. in the home of Marian Conboy,

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

Saturday 25th April

Meet at the church at 12 noon

Men and women are invited to join us - the walk will be about 2 to 3 hours

Sonia 087 679 8876



CHURCH FLOWERS

SERMON ON BEREAVMENT AND GRIEF

Our fellow parishioner, Dr Mathew McCauley, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, delivered a presentation late last year, which focused on grief and loss. Many of those who heard him speak indicated that they appreciated his message. It was felt that it would be appropriate to publish an abridged transcription of his presentation, particularly for the benefit of those who missed his talk.

Introduction

After witnessing the inglorious ending of WWII, with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan, the English poet, Siegfried Sassoon, wrote a poem with the constant refrain, "deliver us from ourselves." As human beings, our actions have consequences. In every aspect of our lives, across our families, communities, and world, we see the evidence that we truly are "our brothers' [or sisters] keeper." We are innately social and relational beings, and we very much come to understand and define ourselves in relation to our environment and our interactions with others. Whilst our customs, emotions, and assumptions have evolved over the centuries, our existence and survival are dependent on such social interactions and relationships.

The readings today address our understanding of faith, and how this relates to an unbroken and relational link between life and death; and how Christ will deliver us from ourselves, and all that that entails. Implicitly, I feel that this communicates to us the view that we are spiritual beings contending with human experiences. In particular, the readings capture the following messages:

- 1) Our relationship with God: "For thus saith the Lord God; behold, I, even I, will both search for my sheep and seek them out."
- Our relationship with each other: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
- 3) ..and the resultant question: How does my faith in eternal life affect my daily dealings with others?

To explore these issues, I wish to talk about two important issues, namely bereavement and grief. Interestingly, it is common for many to recoil from these topics. The subjects seem to produce anxiety and fear, or at least discomfort for some. I would like to speak about these topics by drawing upon both my professional role as a consultant clinical psychologist, and my personal perspective, including my beliefs as a Christian. Of course, we can never completely separate the different facets of our identity! However, I work with people of various faiths and none, and I do not therefore overtly overlay my professional work with Christian theology and practices. As a member of this congregation, though, I am happy to share the complementary elements of my professional and personal perspectives on the topic bereavement and grief.

Defining Bereavement and Grief

The subjects of bereavement and grief are huge areas that touch on faith, culture, psychology, physiology, sociology, and so on. It might be helpful if we first take a look at what we mean when using the words Bereavement and Grief. Bereavement is the state that one would find oneself in after losing someone or something to which they held an attachment. This loss is generally understood in the context of death. Grieving is the reaction one would have whilst in the bereaved state. Bereavement of course happens to us all at some point in our lives. Mostly we expect it to be later on *in life, perhaps through the death of an elderly relative. For some it is sudden and unexpected, and for others, even though they know their loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they can be overwhelmed by unexpected feelings.

It is common to view grief as an emotional process. However, as many will already know, it actually involves emotional, cognitive, physical, social, behavioural, spiritual, and philosophical elements. There has been a wealth of literature written on grief. For example, C.S. Lewis in his book "A Grief Observed," wrote about the death of his wife, and said:

"No one ever told we that grief felt so like fear. I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid. The same fluttering in the stomach, the same restlessness, the yawning I keep on swallowing. At other times it feels like being mildly drunk or concussed. There is a sort of invisible blanket between the world and me. I find it hard to take in what anyone says... Yet I want the others to be about me."

Importantly, people experience grief in different ways. However, grief can include a cacophony of feelings and sensations, which can arise from the often traumatic and devastating nature of bereavement. Emotionally, there may be numbness, anger, despair, shock, disbelief, guilt, anxiety, sometimes even relief. One of the most powerful grief feelings can be a sense of yearning or missing, almost feeling guilty for carrying on living. All these feelings are normal in grief but can be overwhelming and often difficult to put into words.

Thoughts can include "It's all my fault, I can't live without them, I'm going mad, I keep thinking I've seen them, what's the point? It's not fair!" There is often a sense of disbelief, confusion and preoccupation. Many people describe having a sense of the presence of their loved one which is usually a great comfort, but can for some, on occasions, be unsettling. In behavioural terms, a person might find themselves pacing around the house, with restless and searching behaviours. One can be forgetful, struggle with concentration, have a loss of confidence, loss of interest in the things, not look after themselves, avoid others, and have an inability to stop going to places where you feel close to them. Sleep problems are also common. themselves very well. At some level, all of these feelings, thoughts, sensations and behaviours are normal.

Physical manifestations, particularly after a sudden death, can include being jumpy or on high alert, waiting for something to happen, having intrusive images or even flashbacks. Some feel physically anxious, with reactions such as a sensation of stomach churning, heart racing, shaking and being hypersensitive to noise. Some have nightmares or disturbed dreams. Some lose weight, are fatigued, and don't look after themselves very well. At some level, all of these feelings, thoughts, sensations and behaviours are normal.

Grieving Process:

There is generally a consensus of opinion that we may move through different stages as we experience our grief. Some people talk about the stages of grief as; shock or denial, the overwhelming chaos of emotion including anger, guilt, despair; the flatness and feeling of depression that comes with the realization that this is the reality of what has happened. Finally there can be a move towards finding a way to continue with living whilst retaining the bond with the person you have lost. The psychologist J. William Worden talks 'in terms of the 'tasks' that need to be performed, which include the following:

- To accept the reality of the loss, where feelings of shock and numbness are present
- To work through to the pain of grief, involving feelings of guilt, anger, high distress, regrets
- To adjust to an environment in which the deceased is missing, where the reality of what has happened may sink in and a feeling of flatness may often pervade
- To emotionally relocate the deceased and move on with life, where a re-engagement with life is activated whilst at the same time finding a way to keep the memories close.

So what can we do to help ourselves through the grieving process? The following are generally understood as helpful strategies:

- Talk to our close family and friends, especially those that we feel understand us.
- Don't listen td those who say we 'should be doing better than we are'.
- Tell ourselves that we are normal for feeling the way that we do.
- Find ways to continue our bond with the person.
- Be kind to ourselves.

And for those supporting the bereaved, our best course of action is often less about doing to and more about being with. However, depending on the intensity, duration, and level of impact on functioning associated with the grief, the support of a counsellor or psychologist might be appropriate.

Spirituality in Grief

Research and experience suggests that our western society has witnessed an increasing fracturing and distancing from death and dying. This has occurred significantly over the past one hundred years, alongside greater changes in expectations on the quality of life, the practice of faith, the bias towards youth culture, and the fragmentation of the family, where many younger people have less and less contact with older people. Might there be an association between any of these social changes and our attitudes and/or feelings towards death and dying? Death and bereavement of course contain so many dimensions, including our experience and anticipation of our own impending death. It can also relate to our views on the process of dying versus death itself.

Interestingly, some contest that having a "dis-ease" with death can relate to one's own relationship with life, death, and identity. Death is a great leveller and the approach of death can see one lose their defences and protective mechanisms, exposing vulnerability, which can be a threat to some peoples' "construct of self." In particular, they may view death as a threat to their sense of who they think they should be (e.g. as a priest, doctor, parent, friend...). Some might then react defensively, or in an avoidant or ambiguous manner when confronted with death and dying, in the face of this perceived threat to the self.

Bereavement and grief are inextricably related to our relationship with ourselves and others. So what relationship should we have with death? Well bereavement and grief touch on fundamentals of being human, existing, surviving, etc. We cannot know light without dark, joy without sadness; and some have said that life, without authentic reflection on death, is meaningless. Death, for many, equates to the end of total existence. Of course, as Christians we share a belief that our existence carries on after death. This is creatively captured in the following story:

'A friend asked the 80 year old John Adams how he was, and he replied: John is very well, indeed, thank you. But the dwelling in which he lives is sadly dilapidated. It is teetering on its foundations. The walls are badly shattered and the roof is worn. The building trembles with every wind and 1 think John Adams will have to move out of it before too long,' but he himself is well thank you."

Conclusion:

Thankfully, as part of a community of Christian faith, we strive to authentically face up to bereavement and grief, for ourselves and others. Last Sunday we paused to recognise all those who died in road accidents. Earlier this month, we remembered those who served and died in both WWI and all wars, especially those who came from our parish. We are soon to enter Advent, when we overtly face up to our weaknesses, vulnerabilities, and sinfulness, so as prepare ourselves to celebrate the arrival of Christ, who ultimately then will prepare us for death.

Perhaps then my remarks might best be summed up in the following quote:

"I shall not live until I see God,

and when I see God, I shall not die."

Mathew McCauley

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

Sports Activities during School Hours

The senior classes are participating in a number of sports activities in school hours. 6th Class play Tag Rugby on Mondays with Vic Ball of Leinster Rugby (5th Class played before the mid-term break), 5th and 6th Classes have Cricket on Thursdays with Caoilfhinn Rowan of Leinster Cricket and 3rd and 4th Classes have Football with Rory O'Hare of DLRCC and FAI (5th and 6th Classes played before the mid-term break).

The Cricket coaching sessions will be used to select a team to play in the Inter-Primary Schools Leprechaun Cup. We have participated in this before and the pupils always enjoy the games.

Football and Hockey Results

The Boys' Hockey Team have played 6 matches in their division and won them all which is a fantastic achievement. They are now through to the semi-finals of the Leinster U 12 Boys Hockey "B" League Cup. The Girls' Team has played three

matches, winning two and losing one and has two more to play - this again is a great achievement.

Well done to the two teams and to their coach Niall Denham. The Football Team, in Division 2 of the Inter-Primary League, has drawn its first



match and has three more to play. The team is coached by Conor Jennings.



The school is following the Super Trooper programme run by Laya Health Care. If you visit their website you will see a short video of the school and Second Class participating in the programme.

Fun! Fifth Class held a Trashion show - A fashion show where outfits were made from recycled rubbish.

There's always a new idea out there. The whole school enjoyed that.

Caroline Senior - Principal

PARISH REGISTERS:

Christian Burial: 11TH March 2015: Paul Drury, (Rathmichael, Shankill, Co. Dublin) We extend our deepest sympathy to Paul's wife Aine, his children Éanna, Niamh and Oisín, his brother Luke and to his extended family and many friends. Paul will be so missed in our community and far beyond.

Holy Baptism: 15th March 2015: Nathan Brandon, second son of John & Arlene Clinch of Castle Farm, Shankill.

15th March 2015: Rachel Ellen, daughter of Michelle & Edward Hennessy of Herbert Road, Bray.

God's wee gifts to us. May we be found worthy of their innocent trust in God's eyes.

CONFIRMATION:



Adam Smyth, Honor Brigg and Ian Walsh who were confirmed in Christ Church, Bray, by The Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Jackson.

We wish them every blessing as they take this next step in their Christian journey.



EASTER VESTRY

A well attended Easter General Vestry took place on Sunday 22nsd March 2015 following Morning Service.

<u>Rector's Reflections:</u> The Rector gave thanks to all and gave updates on parish life during the morning service.

The Treasurer gave his report and this is included in this Newsletter for your perusal.

The election of Vestry Members took place and the following were elected:

Fiona Ashe Debbie Duncan Richard Marshall Caroline Senior John Bolton Martin Bernon

Lily Byrne David Elmes Michael Malcolmson Mathew McCauley Mark Thornburgh Anne Thompson

Rector's Church Warden:Ms Catherine MillarPeople's Church Warden:Mr. Peter RichardsonRector's Glebe Warden:Mr. Geoffrey PerrinPeople's Glebe Warden:Mr. Peter Williams

Shankill Community Spring Clean Day

Saturday 25th April

Come out and join us on Saturday 25th April for our annual Shankill Community Spring Clean Day. You can meet up at 2pm at either the top of Quinn's Road or outside the Garda station.

Tidy Towns will be providing equipment but bring what you think may be useful, e.g. yard brushes, spades, litter pickers etc.

Check with your Residents' Association – they may be organising an event starting earlier in the day.

You may feel there is an area that needs to be tackled. Let us know, or even better, organise a group of neighbours to deal with the problem. Tidy Towns will be delighted to facilitate; just let us know beforehand.

You can contact Tidy Towns on shankillmatters@gmail.com or call

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Debbie Duncan would like to thank those faithful volunteers who came along and did a great spring clean of the church.

Your efforts have left the place looking really spic and span.

Thank you again.



CHURCH GROUNDS

Fiona Ashe would welcome men and women to a clean up of the church grounds on

Saturday 11th April at 9.00 a.m.

Bring gardening equipment and a bit of energy and enjoy the company!





Rev. Canon Frederick C. Appelbe Rector's – Catherine Millar People's - Peter Richardson Rector's - Geoffrey Perrin People's - Peter Williams Lily Byrne Anne Thompson	282 2803 087 248 2410 086 049 7660 087 065 2312 282 4292 087 917 4452 442 5589 087 689 0339 282 1021 087 222 9633
People's - Peter Richardson Rector's - Geoffrey Perrin People's - Peter Williams Lily Byrne	087 065 2312 282 4292 087 917 4452 442 5589 087 689 0339
People's - Peter Williams Lily Byrne	442 5589 087 689 0339
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Anne Thompson	202 1021 00/ 222 3033
	282 4202 086 893 7067
Beverley East	282 2009
Anne Thompson	282 4202 086 893 7067
Ros Cox	282 4235
Caroline Senior	282 0483
Michael Malcolmson	282 6485
Lily Byrne	282 1021 087 222 9633
Valerie Lewis	284 7741
Lily Byrne	282 1021 087 222 9633
Vivien Reid	
Anne Thompson	282 4202 086 893 7067
Sonia Appelbe Lily Byrne	282 2803 087 679 8876 282 1021 087 222 9633
Kate Matthews	rath.women@gmail.com
Ros Cox	282 4235
Elizabeth Gordon	282 2421
Anne Thompson	282 4202 086 893 7067
Debbie Duncan	272 1127 087 647 1617
Debbie Duncan	272 1127 087 647 1617
Danielle Fletcher	087 255 8126
Sam Stott	086 191 3081
Geoffrey Perrin	282 4292 087 917 4452
Carol Bond	282 6391
Vicky O'Brien Simon Geelon	086 859 2358 086 818 7333
Mark Duncan	272 1127 086 727 2300
Simon Knowd	282 5735 087 2809497
Mark Duncan	272 1127 086 727 2300
Kate Matthews	282 2282 0868078914
Kate Matthews	282 2282 0868078914
Nicola Ralph	274 5175 086 608 6334
Trish O'Neill, Rathmichael School	282 4794
Mrs. Caroline Senior Trish O'Neill	282 4794 282 4794 086 150 3701
Louise Knatchbull Sam Brigg	087086 812 4005 086 8347979
Debbie Duncan	272 1127 087 647 1617
Evelyn McDaid Suzanne McKenzie Young	086 822 5307 086 300 2709
	Ros CoxCaroline SeniorMichael MalcolmsonLily ByrneValerie LewisLily ByrneVivien ReidAnne ThompsonSonia AppelbeLily ByrneKate MatthewsRos CoxElizabeth GordonAnne ThompsonDebbie DuncanDebbie DuncanDebbie DuncanDebbie DuncanCarol BondVicky O'Brien Simon GeelonMark DuncanSimon KnowdMark DuncanKate MatthewsKate MatthewsLing Carol BondVicky O'Brien Simon GeelonMark DuncanSimon KnowdMark DuncanLioucanKate MatthewsKate MatthewsNicola RalphTrish O'Neill, Rathmichael SchoolMrs. Caroline Senior Trish O'NeillLouise Knatchbull Sam BriggDebbie DuncanEvelyn McDaid

Rathmichael Womens' Group

Learn First Aid

Many thanks to Vicky and Suzanne for organising this hugely informative evening.

Gary Henneberry, a First Aid Instructor and Emergency Medical Technician, talked us through a series of emergencies from minor bumps to full-on lifethreatening collapse, stopping along the way to give practical demonstrations and throw in a bit of humour. And we have to include a thanks to Sonia for her cameo performances as first an unconscious and then a choking victim.

Whilst none of the 17 of us assembled would ever ever wish to have to deal with these serious situations with our own children, I'm sure we now all feel much better equipped should any mishap arise.

Another successful event in our 2015 calendar.

For details of our upcoming dates please email: rath.women@gmail.com

ssafa

The SSAFA Charity Sale

Thursday 16th April 2015

10.30am - 1 .00pm

Kiliruddery, Bray, Co. Wicklow

(By kind permission of The Earl and Countess of Meath and Lord and Lady Ardee)

Entrance per adult €2.50 children and car parking free

White Elephant	Plants	
Raffle	Books	

Cakes Delicatessen

Jewellery Woodturning

Tombola Country Produce

Clothes Baby Clothes

Registered Charity No.CHY4629

Rathmichael Church of Ireland Parish

Buy Your Ensemble



Dresses - Shoes - Bags - Scarves

Suits - Jewellery

will take place

in

Rathmichael School

on

Friday 22nd May @ 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 23rd May @ 11.00 a.m.

All proceeds to Rathmichael Parish Fete