

MARCH 2015

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioners and other friends,

I guess it is good to look for the good in others. Whilst many of ex Minister of Education, Ruairi Quinn's policies on education stuck in my craw, I have to credit him with stark honesty at least in one area. Prior to politics, he was an architect. During a radio interview one August as the Leaving Cert. results were issued, the interviewer asked if today Ruairi Quinn would have achieved sufficient points for Architecture in UCD?

The Minister's answer was clear; "Not a chance in hell".

As I write, the 'Mocks' have done or are doing their thing. External papers designed to test the students as to their potential in May/June, and their life path henceforth. No pressure there then!!

I include what I consider a fine piece of writing and philosophy on life below written a couple of weeks ago in The Irish Times by Mary Feely.

"Why we need to teach our children that it is okay to fail"

"As a mum I'm grateful to Sean St Ledger for talking so openly about the dark feelings when his football career stalled.

St Ledger you may remember, scored Ireland's only goal at Euro 2012, but languished between clubs after leaving Leicester City last summer. He's now on a short-term contract with Ipswich Town; his future as an international player is murky.

I've found this period really lonely," St Ledger told RTE in November. "I ring my friends and say, 'What have you been up to?' and they say I've been training, what about you?' I've just gone to the gym or gone to do Bikram Yoga and come home. I don't really do anything because I'm obviously hoping that tomorrow I'm going to get a phone call. It's been quite difficult."

We parents are inclined to be a little more, em; discreet in discussing our own failures with our children, which is why it's so brilliant when adults in the public eye are so honest.

We do our kids no favours by pretending to be infallible. No, it doesn't make our sons and daughters feel secure. Quite the opposite according to mental health experts.

Teenagers, in particular, live in an anxious world and trying to catch up with their supposedly successful parents only adds to their anxiety, according to Dr Harry Barry, a GP in Drogheda, Co Louth, who has a special interest in mental health.

Barry co-wrote a book on parenting teenagers called *Flagging the Screenager* with therapist Enda Murphy, who gave a riveting parenting course at my kids' secondary school. Murphy told us we were fine in teaching our kids how to succeed, but we also need to teach them how to fail.

Gulp. Teach my children to fail? How? Even the suggestion sounds weird. Here in middle-class land, parenting is all about helping kids shine. Grades dipping in Irish? Not to worry. A friend of a friend knows a great grind. And I've heard of an excellent Gaeltacht that teaches the language through water sports. Meantime, we have a neighbour who's fluent. How about I make a call and you go over for a weekly chat as gaelige?

Signposts to talents

Or hobbies. Hobbies are very useful, not as interesting ways to pass the time, but as possible signposts to talents that must be encouraged because, well, just because. Hence the proliferation of classes in art, gymnastics, drama, creative writing and the willingness of worn-out parents to drive from Dingle to Dublin to Donegal so that Orla can dazzle in Irish dancing feis.

But "failure"? Failure is the one extra-curricular activity I haven't signed a child up for.

I'm in good company, it seems The headmistress of an elite London school recently rued what she called "snow plough parents", determined to clear all of life's obstacles from their children's path. I hear her. I'm the lunatic at the controls, using the snow plough to shove my children implacably through all the bumps and barriers.

According to Barry, I'd be better off showing my children that I, too, fail regularly but stagger on nonetheless. It's a daunting prospect. One of the gratifying parts of parenting is that, early on, we're the heroes who can make everything better with a kiss on the knee, followed by a plaster. Switching to chatting about the time I threw up in public at a party is, well, a bit of a comedown.

Contd on next page

Hard knocks

The thing is whether we prepare them or not, failure will find our kids. One day they'll realise that no one enjoys their singing quite as much as Grandad. Or their parents will split up.

It's not as though the kids themselves are unaware of this. Children's literature tackles the topic with gusto.

Author Jacqueline Wilson, for example; writes many of her stories from the point of view of the plain girl whose dad is violent, or the fat kid who by rights should be in care, or the unloved child who actually is in care. My daughter always finishes a Wilson book longing to make friends with the loser narrator rather than the snobby, popular girls who torment her.

Another of my children is obsessively fond of Adrian Mole. Has any hero ever failed more thoroughly, both professionally and emotionally, yet remained more deluded about his talent, than Adrian?

Even Harry Potter, who becomes a leader in a war

Teach my children to fail?...
Here in middle-class land,
Parenting is about helping
kids shine

against evil, begins his career in wizardry as an unloved reject who lives in a cupboard under his aunt and uncle's stairs. Still, there's something especially thrilling when real-life heroes fail, yet refuse to become failures.

For retired boxer Kenneth Egan, the moment when the entire world hailed him as a success - when he won a silver medal at the Beijing Olympics - also began two years of hell as he struggled to cope with fame. Now he tells young people that it's perfectly okay to have negative thoughts. What matters is how you handle them.

A message that all parents, even us pushy snowploughs, need to echo."

The Hand of God,- the Architect and Builder of the universe is in all things and in life's ups and downs.

"Underneath are the everlasting arms"

Fred

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

Pancake Friday took place on 13th February. We were not missing out despite Shrove Tuesday falling on mid term!. It was met with great excitement by both staff and pupils.



The PTA came in to cater and did us proud. Each child contributed €2 towards Trócaire. We are working on Global Citizenship at present for our Green Flag and this ties in very nicely.



Panto Fever has taken over and we have had a very successful first weekend. As we go to Press we are looking forward to the second. Congratulations to all involved. Well done Rathmichael Church!

Caroline Senior
Principal"

THE EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry will take place on Sunday 22nd March 2015 in the Erck Hall, following a service of Morning Prayer.

If you are a registered member of the Parish then you are entitled to vote. Registered member or not, you are free to address the meeting.

This is the A.G.M. of your church and we look forward to a good attendance.

CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH 2015

SUNDAY	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS.	LECTORS
The Second Sunday in Lent <div>Violet</div> 1st March 2015	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38	EVENING PRAYER	Jim Hendry
The Third Sunday in Lent <div>Violet</div> 8th March 2015	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Exodus 20: 1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22 Coffee will be served in The Erck Hall after the Service	HOLY COMMUNION	Shirley Farrell
The Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday <div>Violet</div> 15th March 2015	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Exodus 2: 1-10 Psalm 34: 11-20 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 Luke 2: 33-35	COMPLINE	Suzanne Bracken
The Fifth Sunday in Lent <div>Violet</div> 22nd March 2015	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Followed by The Easter Vestry Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-13 John 12: 20-33	HOLY COMMUNION	Alan Grainger
The Sixth Sunday in Lent PALM SUNDAY <div>Red</div> 29th March 2015	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION & Holy Baptism Liturgy of the Palms Zechariah 9: 9-12 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 11: 1-11	COMPLINE 19.30 HRS YOUTH SERVICE	Sheila Thomson
St. PATRICK <div>White</div> 17th March 2015		HOLY COMMUNION		



CONFIRMATION: The Archbishop of Dublin, The Rt. Reverend Michael Jackson, will confirm Ian Walsh, Honor Brigg and Adam Smyth in Christ Church, Bray, at 11.00 hrs. on Sunday 8th March. We will keep these three young people in our prayers as they confirm the vows which were made on their behalf at their baptisms.

MARCH ROTAS

CHURCH, HALL AND BRASS CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS	HALL
7th March	Fiona Ashe	Vacant	Debbie Duncan
14th	Frances Marshall	Jenny O'Keeffe	Thelma Clinton
21st	ALL	PARISHIONERS	SPRING CLEAN
28th	Eve McCauley	Sandra Ganly	Vacant

CHURCH FLOWERS

1st & 8th Valerie Martin
15th & 22nd Helen Warinton
29th Palm Sunday No flowers



SUNDAY CLUB

	4-6 Yrs	7-9 Yrs	10-12 Yrs
1st March	Debbie Duncan	Carol Beamish	Sam Stott
22nd March	Shirley Farrell	Gillian Nevin	Sarah Campbell

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

March 1st Treasa Cox
8th Family Service
15th Volunteer needed
22nd Sarah Grimson
29th Katie Fox



This is an appeal to mums with young babies and under 4's to please consider putting your name on the Crèche list. We are under pressure at the moment for more volunteers!

This is a very important service as mums and dads can relax and take part in the Church Service knowing that their little ones are nearby and being looked after. Your help would be appreciated.

Please contact me: Danielle Fletcher
 Email: fletcher_danielle@hotmail.com or
 mobile 0860284175 if you can help.

Many thanks, Danielle

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



The book chosen for March is "The Miniaturist" by Jessie Burton and the meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st March, 2015 at 8.00p.m. in the home of Mandy Nolan, "The Rookery", Ferndale Road, Shankill. Telephone 2822541

THE THURSDAY GROUP

We will meet for coffee on Thursday 19th March at 10.30 a.m. in the home of Neville and Anne Thompson, Seafield, Shankill, at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 19th March. We look forward to seeing everyone then and if you need a lift then please contact Anne at 2824202.



CHURCH COFFEE

8th March Heather Hewat - Wendy Kenny
 Anne Colville - Carol Bond
22nd Helen Darcy - Beverley East
 Ros Cox - Anne Thompson



Rathmichael Womens' Group

January Movie Night

Our inaugural event of 2015 was a great success. Around 25 ladies turned out on a cold and windy night to be welcomed to a warm and cosy "cinema" in the Erck Hall Committee Room.



And Movieplex eat your heart out - what a spread! Great snacks served with flair, *and* we could keep munching through the movie.

Many thanks to Gillian and Caroline for their fantastic effort in putting the evening together.

The movie we watched was NOT Bad Neighbours, as originally announced, but a charming tale of real life named St. Vincent. Bill Murray, Melissa Mc Carthy and

Naomi Watts took great parts, but Jaeden Loeberher stole the show, as child actors often do. And wow . . . the soundtrack - a couple of us chose this as the highlight, spanning music from the early '60s up to the present time. Well worth a re-listen.

The whole evening was made even better by the good company and lively banter and we look forward to our next event.

Learn First Aid

The Womens' Group have organised a talk from an experienced First Aid teacher who will demonstrate current approaches to First Aid. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers and chatting, and tea and coffee will be served.

DATE: Tuesday 3rd March

VENUE: Erck Hall

TIME: 8pm

COST: €5 at the door



A little knowledge of First Aid is always useful. You don't have to be a member of the Womens' Group to come along, all are very welcome. We would like to know numbers though, so please e-mail rath.women@gmail.com to let us know, and can you do this no later than 25th February.

At last! It's solved!

The Aisle, The Altar, The Hymn

Through the ages, men have been trying to unlock this mystery: Why do their wives, who accept them just as they are before they get married, begin the quest to change their behaviour and life-style once their vows are exchanged? Finally, the riddle is solved.

A social-scientist has arrived at this simple and logical explanation. When the bride, accompanied by her father, starts to walk slowly down the long aisle, she sees the altar at the end and hears the choir singing a hymn. Walking down the aisle, the conditioning process starts where the brain absorbs these three stimuli: Aisle, altar, and hymn.

She becomes mesmerized as she continually reinforces these perceptions: Aisle, altar, hymn... Aisle, altar, hymn... Aisle, altar, hymn.

And finally, as she stops beside the groom, the conditioning process is complete. She looks up at him smiling sweetly and keeps saying to herself:

"I'll alter him!"

THE PANTOMIME – RATHMICHAEL 150th ANNIVERSARY

“OLD KING COLE”



Director, William Mansfield, and the cast and crew are to be congratulated for putting on such a fantastic pantomime. The school principal, Caroline Senior, initiated the project.

Great fun from beginning to end.



Six performances, completely booked out and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all age groups. Many thanks to the performers – David Elmes, Debbie Duncan, Andrew Ellis, Ronnie Whelan, Martin Bernon, Caroline Senior, Avril McWilliams, Marian Conboy, John Donovan, John Bolton, Anthony Murphy and Rev. Canon Fred Appelbe, for their dedication of time and talents.

Musician supreme, Sandra Ganly, provided musical direction and accompaniment so it goes without saying that all was well in that department. Behind the scenes prompter, Catherine Miller, make-up by Thelma Chambers and Sonia Appelbe, the wardrobe people, and stage crew Peter Richardson, Peter Williams, Fiona Ashe, Elizabeth Mansfield, Mark Thornburgh and Gary O’Keeffe pulled curtains, changed scenery and made sure that all went according to plan.



Our own multifaceted and multi-gifted Sam Stott who always says “Yes” to every request - supplied and operated the stage lighting and was our sound-man.



Thank you to the “front of house” volunteers for their assistance at each show also.



Well done everyone – a truly great way to celebrate our 150th Anniversary!

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

We are starting a walking club - men and women - all are welcome.

We are planning to meet at 12 midday at the church on the last Saturday of each month.

Our first walk will take place on 28th March.

The second walk will be on 25th April.

For those interested - please put the dates in your diary now and join us.

The walks will be about 2 to 3 hours long.

Sonia 087 679 8876



Youth Group
Every Saturday
7pm-9pm
1st-4th Years
for more info call
Sam 086 19 1308 1

The Choir

YOUR PARISH CHOIR

One of the features of Rathmichael that is frequently praised is the music, led by organist Valerie Lewis and the singing of the choir. But the choir is dependent on its members and crucially new people coming along and saying "I would like to take part."

Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 8.15 for a strict hour and then there is the singing at 11am on Sunday mornings. While obviously its ideal if most or all choir members can be present most of the time, we accept that's unrealistic and unreasonable for some.

So if you would be willing to join us for say 2 Sundays a month (and the 2 rehearsals) that would be great. PLEASE, PLEASE think about it and contact Valerie or any member of the choir.

The choir is made up of varying musical talent -

I know because I'm one of the weakest. But it really is enjoyable and I certainly have learnt a lot since I joined and the support of other choir members as I try and learn my part is very much appreciated and yes, FUN.

So if you want to learn how to sing a part then think about it. And if you are already an outstanding sight reader and opera trained, well brilliant.

A Chorister

DUNLAOGHAIRE/RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

As you may know, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is a signatory to the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Counties, the primary objective of which is; **"To make Dún Laoghaire Rathdown a great place in which to grow old."** The first element of the programme requires the assessment of older persons needs and expectations, in order to enhance their quality of life, across 9 themes. This assessment will commence with outreach consultation sessions, including survey, focus groups and round table conversations, during the first quarter of 2015.

The Council in conjunction with Age Friendly Ireland are looking to obtain the views of older people (55+) on a number of themes identified by the World Health Organisation as to what makes a place age friendly, for example access to health, education, and information among others, and based on this develop a series of actions to address the issues raised along with a responsible body to carry out the action such as the local transport provider and a time frame.

The Council are hoping to hold a forum in Shankill and in order to gauge how many people would be interested in attending - please give your name to Anne Thompson @ 2824202 or 086 8937067. The date of the meeting will be advertised in due course. This will be an open meeting for all residents in the area.



CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

SATURDAY 21st MARCH

9.30 a.m. to 12.00

ALL WELCOME PLEASE BRING YOUR DUSTERS!!

THIS IS OUR BI-ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN AND ALL

**HELP (MEN TOO PLEASE) WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED!!**



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED...

ANY QUERIES - CONTACT DEBBIE DUNCAN

2721127/0876471617

OTHERWISE JUST TURN UP!

**(Can we, with respect, point out that this event is
not the place for little people)**

MARTELLO



PRODUCTIONS

Presents by kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

NUTS

By
Tom Topor

In Burton Hall, Rathmichael National School,
Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co Dublin

On Thurs. 26th, Fri. 27th and Sat. 28th March

At 8pm.

Tickets: €12.50 (Concession €8) to include tea/coffee etc.

To reserve tickets please call 086-2633955

A Broadway hit, *Nuts* has been called the best courtroom melodrama since *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*. Set in a courtroom in New York's Bellevue Hospital, the story follows a high-priced call girl incarcerated on a charge for killing a violent "john". The State, represented by a court appointed psychiatrist and an aggressive prosecutor, say Claudia Faith Draper is unfit to stand trial. As testimony from experts, physicians and her parents unfolds, with her psyche and childhood dissected, she has to prove to the judge that she isn't "nuts" but legally sane to stand trial for manslaughter.