

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



My dear Parishioners & other friends,

From Cabaret fun and frivolity in early November, to Parisian devastation on Friday 13th November less than a week after Remembrance Service as we remembered triumph of good over evil. Then as Christmas peeps our way, the renewed strains in hospitals and public buildings to jettison the Christmas tree and all the trappings. The church is pretty much prised out of Healthcare, with similar pressure now in Education, and some would argue that it is side lined also with the introduction of Same Sex Marriage.

As Rural Dean I am temporarily involved in Kiltarnan parish during the interregnum. There I see the work of the Glebe Nursing Home and Sheltered Housing. Cowper care has 3 state of the art nursing homes caring for up to 168 people and 264 eventually, with 150 employees. Wages c.a. €7 million per annum. Thus along with St. John's NH, St. Mary's NH, and other well run units, with a major ongoing voluntary input, the church works hard to in this area of Health Care. A bit of good news.

Inside on Page 5 you will see details of a debate, the EBLANA FORUM DEBATE in Dunlaoghaire on the 3rd December. Very Revd. Gordon Linney, Patsy McGarry and Fr. Peter McVerry should lead to a useful debate on 'HAPPY HOLIDAY': Instead of Happy Christmas. How tedious.

PARIS: I preached recently and quoted heavily from "The Vicar of Baghdad", the Revd Andrew White who is a Church of England priest working in the only Anglican Church in Iraq and is a commissary to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

For the last two decades, Andrew White has worked as a mediator in some of the deadliest disputes on Earth, in Israel and Palestine, Iraq and Nigeria. He has sat down to eat with terrorists, extremists, warlords and the sons of Saddam Hussein, with presidents and prime ministers.

Andrew White argues that we have to try to make connections even with people we feel are horrible. He has had a reputation for doing just that. Enemies really can be turned into friends

However, when it comes to ISIS, even the vicar of Baghdad now feels that diplomacy has run out. He says "I invited the leaders of Isis [Islamic State] for dinner. I am a great believer in that. I have asked some of the worst people ever to eat with me." "Isis said, 'You can invite us to dinner, but we'll chop your head off.' So I didn't invite them again! To be honest you can't negotiate with them. I have never said that about another group of people. These are really so different, so extreme, so radical, so evil." "You are asking me how we can deal radically with Isis. The only answer is to radically destroy them. I don't think we can do it by dropping bombs. We have got to bring about real change. It is a terrible thing to say as a priest.

"You're probably thinking, 'So you're telling me there should be war?' Yes!"

The truth is that Islamic terrorists only understand one language: the language of force. The World has not been as active as we could be in response to atrocities committed by ISIS in Syria and Iraq against the Christian population among others. I suspect that these recent attacks will lead to a renewed determination to defeat these forces of evil.

As I write, the Prime Minister of the UK is suggesting joining France, Germany, Russia, Italy, the US in sending bombers into Syria to effect the above.

The 'Christian' Crusades where the infidel had to be exterminated are over, but replaced by ISIS, and we must not be shy about our faith in the risen Christ.

The good news is that you and I are not mad and we will Celebrate the Birth of Christ, the Saviour of our Souls.

And while I write and wish you a Happy Christmas, I know it is hell for some of our parish family and for many unknown to us. Please know that we care deeply for those who are hurting.

From Sonia, Hayley, Debby, Doola the dog and myself.

God bless and take time to care for yourself.

Fred



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 13th December 19.00 hrs

BLUE CHRISTMAS

*

Sunday 20th December 16.00 hrs

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

followed by seasonal refreshments

*

CHRISTMAS EVE 23.45 hrs

The First Communion of Christmas

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CHRISTMAS DAY

08.30 hrs Holy Communion

11.00 hrs Family Service

11.45 hrs Holy Communion

SERVICES - DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	08.30 HRS	11. 00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
<p>The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Violet</p> <p>6th DECEMBER 2015</p>	H.C.	<p>FAMILY SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Malachi 3: 1-4 <i>Canticle: Benedictus</i> Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6</p> <p>You are most welcome to join us for coffee after the service</p>	<p>EVENING PRAYER</p> <p>With the Laying on of Hands for Healing</p>	Sheila Thomson
<p>The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Violet</p> <p>13th DECEMBER 2015</p>	H.C.	<p>MORNING PRAYER (Rite 2) RE-DEDICATION</p> <p>Zephaniah 3: 14-20 <i>Psalm 146: 4-10</i> Luke 3: 7-18</p>	<p>BLUE CHRISTMAS</p>	Marian Conboy
<p>The FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Violet</p> <p>20th DECEMBER 2015</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Micah 5: 2-5a <i>Canticle; The Magnificat</i> Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)</p>	<p>16.00 HRS SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS</p>	Lily Byrne
<p>The FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">White or Gold</p> <p>27th DECEMBER 2015</p>	H.C.	<p>MORNING PRAYER</p> <p>1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20, 26 Psalm 148 Luke 2: 41-52</p>	<p>NO EVENING SERVICE</p>	Garrett O'Keeffe

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF SERVICES

Family Service will take place on the First Sunday in December - 6th December - with Holy Communion so that the children can join in.

It is hoped that each child will bring a small item along to that service to put in the hamper which the Sunday Club is making up for St. Vincent de Paul.

Morning Prayer (Rite 2) will with Re-Dedication will take place on Sunday 13th December.

GRIP AND SLIP YOUTH GROUPS

The Upcoming dates for The youth groups are

Slip as normal on the 5th

Grip Christmas party on the 12th

Slip Christmas party on the 19th

We will be back after the Christmas break

Grip on the 2nd of Jan

Slip on the 9th of Jan

Parents : Could you please note that my phone number has changed. It is now 083 811 0533

*Jonathan Byford,
 Rathmichael Parish Youth Worker*

RATHMICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

We had a very pleasant visit to the Old Folks Day centre to deliver our Harvest goods. The children had collected these at Assembly. The Centre was delighted with the proceeds and each member went home with a very welcome parcel. Two children, Joshua Carroll and Harriet Smith from 1st class accompanied Canon Fred Appelbe and me. They were full of chat and loved speaking with everyone.



We also collected 158 Shoe Boxes for Team Hope. This is very enjoyable and the children enjoy putting the boxes together.

6th Class were filmed for News4today.

The school is currently working towards a flag for Global Citizenship and this all ties in very nicely with what they've been taught. It's all about giving back to others.

It's a very busy term and everyone is working hard. I hope you all have a restful Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year.

*Caroline Senior,
Principal*



6th Class pupils visited Dáil Eireann recently and are pictured on the steps of Leinster House."



RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

You are invited to join us for our walks on Saturday 26th December and on Saturday 30th January.

Meet at Rathmichael Church at 11.00 a.m.

Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal.

Bishops' Appeal is the Church's World Aid and Development Programme. It was set up by the Bishops of the Church in response to the commands in the Bible to bring good news to the poor and relief to the suffering.

Aims of this role

- to educate the Church at home about the needs and concerns of people in the less developed world and the causes of poverty;
- to encourage Church members to examine the reasons for the problems facing the less fortunate in the world and to consider what we can do to change conditions;
- to reach out in God's name to those who need our help; to encourage informed prayer and prayerful action aimed at strengthening the poor; to raise the funds needed to allow Bishops' Appeal to support development projects and alleviate the suffering caused by disasters, both natural and man-made.

Bishops' Appeal works through partner Non-Governmental Organisations and Mission Agencies to implement Christ's "Mission Statement" to feed the hungry, lift the burden of poverty from the poor and bring freedom and hope to the oppressed. It does not fund development and emergency work directly. Our partners have the local knowledge and resources to ensure that projects for which they apply for funding are of maximum benefit to the peoples and areas in which they work.

Bishops' Appeal contributes to relief of suffering in time of emergencies whether natural or man-made. However, our main concern is to support ongoing development in the fields of sustainable agriculture, health, including HIV/AIDS, and education in many parts of the world. We aim to enable people to have more control over their own lives and futures so that they are less dependent on others than they are today.

Half the world's population live on less than two dollars a day; indeed, over 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live on less than one dollar a day. It is estimated that 30,000 people die every day from poverty related diseases. The Christian Church cannot remain silent in the face of this ongoing tragedy and injustice. Bishops' Appeal is the Church of Ireland's voice calling for an end to this suffering and working with others to make a difference where it can.

+Patrick Rooke
Chair, Bishops' Appeal

In Rathmichael Parish over Christmas we will have retiring collections for Bishops' Appeal at our services. The purple envelopes will be in each Newsletter along with a copy of the annual report for this appeal - they will also be available in the pews.

For those who are on email you can read about the Appeal and what it does at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org

Your ongoing support is most appreciated.

For the Bishops' Appeal, Anne Thompson

THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Je suis Old Mother Hubbard's Dog!

Not really, - thanks to the extraordinary generosity of those who trust me to be judicial in my administration of the fund.

Over the years this fund has allowed me to support parishioners who have one way or another met with adversity or need.



The fund provides practical financial help, usually in small amounts, which simply says, *"the parish cares"*. I know that these gestures have been gratefully received and have made a huge difference throughout the year to individuals or families at times of crises.

The fund is administrated by myself, with an independent auditor, in a completely confidential manner.

Fred

THE SIMON COMMUNITY

When a homeless person arrives at a Simon Shelter, usually with nothing except the clothes they are wearing, they require a shower etc., and toiletries are required at this time. Toothpaste, soap, deodorants are most acceptable so that a "welcome pack" can be put together.

The "drop-in" centres try to keep cups of tea and biscuits on the go for those who need a pick me up during the day - so lots of tea and sugar and biscuits are required for them.

Woolly hats, scarves and gloves are always required for those who are homeless especially at this time of year when the temperatures drop. These are always welcome.

No charity will ever refuse a cheque or cash as they can get good value from "bulk buying" and this year Emma Parker will gladly look after any donations which you may wish to make.

The Simon box will be in the church porch and your donation of any of the items listed above will be most appreciated.

Emma can be contacted @ 087 293 6035

BEYOND RATHMICHAEL and St. VINCENT de PAUL



In recent years the parish has very generously contributed to Christmas food hampers which have been donated mainly to the local St Vincent de Paul organisation and a lesser amount to Bray Women's Refuge. Both societies have been enormously grateful as of course have been the recipients of the hampers. Needless to say the demands on both organisations are greater than ever and our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal meets a real need.

So as before we really would like donations of CASH which will enable us to go to the supermarkets and bargain for the best price for multiple items, or tins or packets of food (please make sure they are not out of date) and/or home baked items-cakes, puddings, biscuits, mince pies etc but these must be in some sort of sealed container which we can deliver with the item.

Food items can be left in the collection boxes in the Church Porch or delivered to us in the Burton Hall early morning on

Saturday 19th December.

Cash donations can be given to us at any time!

This Appeal which is generously supported by the Select Vestry is another way of showing our concern for and interest in the local communities.

Fiona Ashe 087 8215806

Geoffrey Perrin 087 9174452



THE CHURCH REVIEW

The subscription for the Church Review for 2016 of €40 is now due and should be paid to Carol Bond in cash or by cheque payable to her. Carol would greatly appreciate prompt payment of subs.

Carol is always hoping to increase the circulation of the Church Review in the parish.

The Review has interesting news from all the parishes in the Diocese, a foreword from the Archbishop, book reviews, a very popular crossword and many other articles.

Please contact Carol at 282 6391 (by 15th December) if you wish to renew or take a new subscription.

CONFIRMATION



A Confirmation Service will take place on Sunday 6th March at 3.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Bray when candidates from Rathmichael Parish will join with others from Bray and Kilternan on that occasion.

If you wish to be confirmed and have not yet done so, please contact Anne Thompson @ 086 893 7067 or the rector as soon as possible.

HAPPY HOLIDAY: Instead of Happy Christmas

Should we take religion out of Christmas?

EBLANA FORUM DEBATE

Speakers include: Councillor Karl Gill

Very Rev. Gordon Linney

Patsy McGarry - Irish Times

Fr. Peter McVerry

THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2015 @ 8.00 p.m.

In The Dunlaoghaire Club, 3 Eblana Avenue,

Dunlaoghaire.

HAVE YOUR SAY - PLEASE ATTEND

If you wish you may book your seat(s) by contacting the club office (01) 2801296 (mornings) email: eblanaclub@gmail.com

Thank you! Thank you!

This is an appropriate time of year to thank everyone who helps to keep the wheels on this parish bus well oiled and turning.

We thank the church wardens Catherine Millar and Peter Richardson for looking after "everything" at each service.

Thank you to the Organist and Choir for their musical input at each service and to Lily Byrne for organising the lectors each week.

Thank you to the volunteers who help to run the Sunday Club and to Jonathan, Elaine and their helpers for their work with Slip and Grip Youth Groups.

Thanks also to Debbie Duncan and her volunteers who look after the Sunday Crèche and take care of our very little ones while mum and dad attend the service.

We thank Elizabeth Gordon, Ingrid Goodbody and their team for attending to the flower arrangements, which are admired each week and remind us of the beauty of the earth that God has given us.

We thank Ros Cox for looking after the Liturgical Colours week by week throughout the year.

Thank you to Anne Thompson and the team of volunteers who serve that welcome cup of coffee on certain Sundays throughout the year.

Thanks to Debbie Duncan and the people who attend to Church, Hall and Brass Cleaning (there are a few "vacancies" throughout the year). This team of helpers keeps our lovely little church spic and span.

Our Glebe Wardens attend to all matters with regard to upkeep of the buildings and halls and Dave Elmes, along with Fiona Ashe, Geoffrey Perrin and Peter Williams arrange work parties to prune, clear and plant the church grounds. Our thanks to all involved in this work.

Thanks to Carol Bond who looks after delivery of The Church Review and Geoffrey Perrin who does likewise with the Gazette.

Our parish Newsletter is Edited by The Rector and compiled by Anne Thompson. Ros Cox manages the distribution of it each month. Many thanks to those dedicated distributors who, through rain and shine, deliver it to many parishioners throughout the parish.

The Newsletter is printed, as are the service sheets for our main services at Christmas and throughout the year, to a very high standard by Grant Howie at Grants, Baggot Street Dublin, and we thank him for that.

We email a large number of Newsletters to parishioners, ex-parishioners and friends of the parish, and will be happy to add more names to that list. Please send your email address to annethompson@iol.ie and we will gladly put you in our address book. This also helps to reduce overheads with printing which loom large on the agenda!

We thank our Parish Treasurer, Michael Malcolmson, for his diligent book-keeping and to Mark Thornburgh for his generous giving of time and inimitable skills and talents.

As you can see from the above, many hands make light work so please consider offering your services for even a few hours during the year. It would be greatly appreciated.

Fred

RATHMICHAEL WOMEN'S GROUP

Everyone interested in this group is invited to come along on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 8.00 p.m. to The Erck Hall when we will put together our calendar for 2016 and have a fun evening.

ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Each year in the month of January every Church of Ireland parish revises its register of parishioners.

People who have become new members of the Parish and parishioners who have reached the age of eighteen are entitled to become registered members of the Parish (referred to as registered vestry members).

In a similar manner those who have ceased to be registered vestry persons through death or having moved away from the Parish are deleted.

To be so registered entitles one to vote at the Annual Easter Vestry Meeting, the Parish AGM. An up-to-date register is also helpful when the Church of Ireland carries out a census of its members.

Please therefore, if applicable, complete and return the form below to a Churchwarden or the Rector before 13th January 2016.

ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Declaration Form for new Registered Vestry Members

(If by 13th January 2016 you will have reached the age of 18 or if you have recently become a member of Rathmichael Parish, you should complete the following declaration and give it to a Churchwarden or the Rector before 13th January 2016.)

_____ of _____

Name (Address)

I declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland; that I am a *Resident or *Accustomed Member of the congregation of Rathmichael Parish in the Diocese of Dublin; that I am over 18 years of age and that I am not now registered elsewhere as an above stated member of a congregation in the Church of Ireland.

Signed: _____

Dated _____

*Delete whichever does NOT apply

('Resident') means a person within Rathmichael Parish and attending Rathmichael Church

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



There will be no Book Club meeting in December 2015

The January 2016 meeting will be on Tuesday 26th January @ 8.00 p.m. in the home of Linda Orr, Ballybride Cottage, Ballybride, Shankill. 'phone 2822471

We are reading two books for the January meeting - "The Green Road" by Anne Enright and "Not my Father's Son" by Alan Cumming

Kind regards,
Lily

THE THURSDAY GROUP



Our Christmas Lunch along with Kiltiernan Parish will take place in Old Conna Golf Club on Thursday 17th December. We will meet at 12.30 p.m. The cost of lunch will be €25 per person and friends are more than welcome to join us.

Our meeting for the New Year will be on Thursday 21st January in the home of Neville and Anne Thompson, Kelgar, Seafield, Shankill. Please phone if you require a lift @ 2824202.

Christmas greetings everyone, Anne

ROTAS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS	HALL
5th DEC	Sarah Campbell	Debbie Duncan	
12th	Anne Headley	Beverley East	
19th	Anne Headley	Beverley East	
9th JAN	Heather Maybury		
16th	Heather Maybury	Jackie Sharpe	
23rd	Debbie Duncan	Jackie Sharpe	
30th	Fiona Carty		

SUNDAY CLUB

	4-6 YRS	7-9 YRS	10-12 YRS
13th Dec	T.B.A.	Sarah Campbell	Debbie Duncan

Sunday Club will meet on the 17th and 31st January 2016 and we look forward to seeing all our young members then!

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

13th Dec	Nessa Carson
3 rd January	No Crèche
10 th January	Family Service
17 th January	Michelle Hennessy
24 th January	Cara Allison
31 st January	Volunteer Needed

CHURCH COFFEE

6th Dec - Shirley Garland, Gilly Goodbody,
Barbara McWilliam, Anne Golden

Coffee will be served on 10th & 24th January



You are cordially invited to

Stories and Songs by the Crib for the under 4 's
in Rathmichael Church

on Wednesday 9th December at 10.30 am followed by a Christmas Tree Party hosted by Rathmichael Parents, Babies and Toddler Group. Food, fun and games and maybe a surprise visitor!!!

As we need an idea of numbers for the party please let Stephanie @ 087 625 0111 or Clare @ 087 775 4058 know by 5th December if you are coming.

CAROL SINGING AT BEECHFIELD MANOR



We look forward to singing carols with the Residents and Staff in Beechfield Manor Nursing Home on Monday 14th December. Meet at 7.00 p.m. sharp at the nursing home.

We need some tuneful voices to get us through the evening and men, women and children (over 8 years of age) would be most welcome. Don't forget your antlers and Santa hats!

Please Note: The Nursing Home is very warm so woolly jumpers are not necessary!

CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS <div style="text-align: right;">White</div> 3rd JANUARY 2016	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Psalm 147: 12-20 Ephesians 1: 3-14 St. John 1: (1-9) 10-18	EVENING PRAYER	
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST The First Sunday after the Epiphany <div style="text-align: right;">White</div> 10th JANUARY 2016	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 St. Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 You are most welcome to join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY <div style="text-align: right;">White</div> 17th JANUARY 2016	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 St. John 2: 1-11	COMPLINE	
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY <div style="text-align: right;">White</div> 24th JANUARY 2016	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 St. Luke 4: 14-21 (22-30) Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY <div style="text-align: right;">White</div> 31st JANUARY 2016	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Psalm 48 St. Luke 2: 22-40	COMPLINE	



WUNDERLAND COMICS

'Wunderland Comics', a series of Children's Christian Stories by Rev Baden Stanley (our neighbour in Christ Church, Bray) will be available to buy (€5 per monthly issue) from the end of November.

More info on www.wunderlandtrust.com or phone Baden on [0879484407](tel:0879484407).

Let the Wonder of Christmas begin!