

FEBRUARY 2016

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioners et al,

As part of the 1916 commemorations, as far as I know every school in the Republic was formally presented with the tri-colour. In Rathmichael National School the children and teachers were instructed as to what can and cannot be done to/with the flag. All formally and pleasantly carried out by soldiers.

As Eastertide approaches, - I have just received in the Post two orders of service. One, "*A Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme for Local Use*", and the other, "*A Service of Commemoration of the Easter Rising 1916*".

My maternal grandmother spoke liberally if bitterly about the 1916 "**Rebellion**". No "**Rising**" for her! It was definitely a **REBELLION**!! She was a Protestant farmer in Skibbereen and had been held at gunpoint and neighbours had been shot by the 'Rebels'. My grandfather was a Quack Vet who apparently helped one and all which perhaps saved him from being murdered.

I saw an interview featuring South African 'whites' through several generations. I feel the program was fair and not trying to stir the muck. The views towards The African National Congress (ANC) between the older generations and the current generation were poles apart. In no small way due to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The Bidding Prayer for the *Service of Commemoration of the Easter Rising 1916* reads; "*Brothers and Sisters, In remembering the events of one hundred years ago, we, the Church are called to give voice to shared suffering, silenced and untold stories, the many and nuanced narratives, bravery and heroism, and commitment to ideals that were underpinned by shared and common aspirations*".

Jesus was crucified. Why? His crucifixion is often regarded as a **mistake** on the part of the Romans. Jesus was totally innocent. Pilate must have made a mistake perhaps under pressure from Jewish leaders. This is a common belief. For many Christians the context of the ministry of Jesus is not important. Salvation has a narrower meaning centring on his sacrifice more than on his fullness of life.

Jesus was crucified. Why? Crucifixion was a method used only for those the Romans regarded as a threat to the empire. Pilate must have regarded Jesus as threatening the empire in some way even though not in a violent way. The trouble being that Jesus was given the title 'King' by his followers. The Roman soldiers mocked him as such and dressed him with a purple robe and crown of thorns. Before Jesus' birth Herod was threatened by this new "King".

So what? Well Jesus was given titles previously dared be given only to the Roman emperor. Before Jesus was born the titles of Caesar were – Augustus, Divine One, Son of God, Lord, Redeemer, Saviour of the World, and the early Christians had the audacity to take those titles from the Roman emperor and give them to a Jewish peasant!!

Jesus in his mission to renew Israel was doing something that challenged the rule of Rome. He reminded them that they were a covenant people who if they looked after one another even to paying each others debts they could together endure oppression. His proclamation of the Kingdom of God (*thy Kingdom come, thy will be..*) and his confrontation with the Jerusalem Temple authorities who were client rulers for Rome, all indicate a very uneasy relationship between Jesus and Rome at a political level.

For the Republic Of Ireland (from the service above)

Almighty God, as we recall the vision of the leaders of the Easter Rising, we pray for all who today shape our present and envision our future, and that, as citizens of this Republic, we may work for that radical equality and social inclusion taught us by our Saviour Jesus Christ.

May we work unfailingly for justice, peace and love, so that our State may embrace the values of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven; with the guidance of your Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God bless.

Fred

CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2016

| SUNDAY | 08.30 HRS | 11.00 HRS | 19.00 HRS | LECTORS |
|---|-----------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| The Sunday before Lent <u>Transfiguration</u> White 7th February 2016 | H.C. | HOLY COMMUNION Exodus 34: 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2 Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43) | EVENING PRAYER | Jim Hendry |
| The First Sunday in Lent Violet 14th February 2016 | H.C. | FAMILY SERVICE Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13 You are invited to coffee after the service | EVENING SERVICE | Marian Conboy |
| The Second Sunday in Lent Violet 21st February 2016 | H.C. | HOLY COMMUNION With Holy Baptism Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3: 17 - 4:1 Luke 13: 31-35 | COMPLINE | BAPTISMAL PARTY |
| The Third Sunday in Lent Violet 28th February 2016 | H.C. | MORNING PRAYER Isaiah 55: 1-9 Psalm 63: 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9 You are invited to coffee after the service | HOLY COMMUNION | Alan Grainger |

ASH WEDNESDAY - 10th FEBRUARY 2016

There will be a worship Service at 20.00 hrs

THE EASTER VESTRY

The Easter Vestry will take place on Sunday 13th March 2016 in the Erck Hall, following 11.00 hrs Family Service.

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.

ROTAS - FEBRUARY 2016

CHURCH & BRASS CLEANING

| DATE | CHURCH | BRASS |
|---------|------------------|----------------|
| 6th Feb | Anne Thornburgh | Clare Pluck |
| 13th | Anne Thornburgh | Clare Pluck |
| 20th | Frances Marshall | Valerie Martin |
| 27th | Frances Marshall | Valerie Martin |

SUNDAY CLUB

| 4-6 years | 7-9 years | 10-12 years |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 7th Valerie Robinson | Jane White | Debbie Duncan |
| 28th Shirley Farrell | NiamhAnn McCann | Gillian Nevin |



THE THURSDAY GROUP



We will meet for coffee on Thursday 18th February in the home of Neville and Anne Thompson, Seafield, Shankill, at 10.30 a.m.

Lifts are available - just give me a call if you need one.

Anne 2824202

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS



Meet at Rathmichael Church at 11.00 a.m.

on Saturday 27th February.

Everyone welcome!

Queries to: Helen @ 087 234 2689

CHURCH FLOWERS

7th & 14th Corinne Hewat

21st & 28th Margaret Nevin



SUNDAY CRECHE

7th Fernanda Power

14th Family Service

21st Grace O'Brien

28th Katie Fox



CHURCH COFFEE



14th Wendy Kenny, Marilyn Griffith, Anne Colville & Avril Stewart

28th Gilly Goodbody, Shirley Garland, Barbara Fagan & Ros Cox

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



The February meeting will be on Tuesday 23th February 2016 @ 8.00 p.m. in the home of Lesley Wallace, "The Mews", Old Glebe House, Bridesglen Road, Shankill. Phone: 2822514

The book for February is "Gone Baby Gone" by Dennis Lehane.

'BEYOND RATHMICHAEL'

Once again parishioners were extremely generous with the Christmas Hamper Appeal which meant that we were able to give some €3,500 to St Vincent De Paul mainly in the form of hampers-some of which were also given to Bray Women's Refuge.

The following letter was received from the President of St Annes Conference of SVP.

"Dear Members of Rathmichael Parish.

We at St Anne's Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all your help and support at Christmas. Your beautiful hampers, funded by generous donations from your members, are greeted by our clients with delight, gratitude and sometimes even tears of happiness.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone who participated in this enormous effort and convey to them how much it is appreciated."

And then in mid-January the parish responded magnificently to the Bishops Flood Appeal. The highlight here was the Dinner in the Burton Hall which again raised €3,500 at what was a really enjoyable night for the 85 who attended.

An initiative of Fiona Ashe who planned it all, cooked everything and was helped by Peter Williams.

Well done Rathmichael Parish,

Geoffrey Perrin



I think Geoffrey hides his talents under a bushel!

*He also played a big part in organising and getting this absolutely fantastic evening up and going!
Many thanks to you too Geoffrey.*

Fred

THE BISHOPS' APPEAL

Each year, coming up to Christmas, we put out our begging bowls for charities and The Bishops' Appeal, the Church of Ireland's World Aid Development Programme, is one such charity.

Most parishioners will have read the booklet which was left in the pews and distributed with the December Newsletter and you will be aware of the work that this Appeal carries out in so many different ways in countries around the world.

Bishops' Appeal does not engage directly in development work itself, but channels funds through development agencies and partner churches who are already in place in areas of need.

Bishops' Appeal contributes to relief of suffering in time of emergencies whether natural or man-made. However, their 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. Their aim is 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.

Thank you so much to Rathmichael parishioners for your very generous response to this Appeal which is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks also for your church donations towards the Flood Appeal which with the money raised through the "Flood Dinner Evening" meant that a cheque for a total of €4,000 was donated.

Anne Thompson

THE SIMON COMMUNITY

Emma Parker kindly looked after the appeal for the Simon Community. We are all familiar with the work carried out by the Simon volunteers who look after people for whom life has been more than unkind.

Emma delivered a large selection of warm hats, blankets and also money to their premises and received a very warm welcome and grateful thanks to all in Rathmichael who kindly contributed.

Thank you.

THE “FLOOD APPEAL” DINNER



Peter Williams always loves to wear an apron!



The Young Ones



Somebody had to do the dishes



Enjoying the evening



Happy people

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

New Chicks

We undertook a new project at Rathmichael School.



Six eggs arrived in an incubator. We watched over a few days and marked the arrival of five new chicks.



This was an amazing experience for the school. To witness the new birth at such close quarters was very exciting. Each morning we watched as more hatched and each chick became stronger. We kept the chickens for two weeks marking their growth, feeding and changing them daily.

This is definitely something we will repeat in the future. The education in that surpasses any books in my opinion.

**Caroline Senior,
Principal.**

S.E.C. Grant Applications

Please note that SEC Grant applications are to be in by 28th February.

Children have to be MEMBERS of the Parish and attend church regularly in order that the rector can sign off on these Grants.

Parish Register:



Marriage:

18th December 2015:

Sarah, daughter of Mark and Ann Thornburgh, Rathmichael Manor, Loughlinstown, Dublin 18, and Shane McDonnell from the beautiful and fertile county of Meath.

We wish Sarah and Shane every blessing and happiness as they begin their married lives together and they know that they will always have a spiritual and caring home here in Rathmichael Parish.

Craft Aid

Will take place in

The Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre

29th February - 4th March

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

100% of all funds raised will be shared equally between The Cottage Home Child and Family Services and The Blackrock Hospice.

Items for sale will include locally crafted jewellery, paintings, knitted, patchwork and felted items, homemade soaps, candles, preserves etc.

Leslie Greer produced reports based on decrypted signals during Second World War



Leslie Greer (98) who worked as an analyst in Bletchley Park during the Second World War.

Interviewed by Peter Murtagh of the Irish Times.
19th January 2016.
Photo: Eric Luke/The Irish Times.

The cryptanalysts worked at Bletchley in Hut 6; Greer and others were in Hut 3, where she was, officially, a “temporary senior assistant officer” on secondment from the foreign office. Her job was to produce intelligence reports based on German army and air force signals decrypted by Hut 6.

LINGUISTIC SKILLS

Interviewed last year by TCD historian Eunan O’Halpin, Greer said she received no training for her work, her linguistic skills apparently being sufficient.

“We set up this small group of people who read all the stuff in German and knew what it all meant”, she said. They gave their analyses to Stuart Milner-Barry, the codebreaking chess player who ran Hut 6, suggesting what they thought they should be looking for in future German communications.

The work was on the whole boring”, she recalled in her room in St. Mary’s Home on Pembroke Park, with her books (a highbrow few kept from a much larger collection and including Eric Hobsbawm’s *The Age of Extremes* and Seamus Heaney’s *Open Ground*), pastel illustrations by her late husband Patrick, and some family photos.

“Some of the information was unimportant”, she said, “but some was very important”. “We had one or two things come in that really got us all on our seats, (for instance) when something happened that showed the Germans were deciding to start something with Russia, everybody got excited”.

It was also important to watch for anything relating to north Africa, she said.

After the war, Greer continued working for the foreign office and was awarded the MBE.

“I think it was because I was in South America and the queen or someone must have thought it was desirable,” she said.

Describing herself as an optimistic person, Greer likes keeping up with the world through the “Irish Times” and watching some TV “but only in the evening”.

Despite her years and slightly rusty hearing, Greer is optimistic for the future. “Now, it looks to me that things are getting better,” she said.

For parishioners who are “new” to Rathmichael, Leslie is a much loved parishioner who now resides in St. Mary’s Nursing Home.

Some will remember, journalist, Arminta Wallace of this parish, interviewed Leslie for the Rathmichael Newsletter in 2012.

Many congratulations to Leslie on receiving this award from the British Government.

Fred

One woman’s role in the extraordinary work carried out in Bletchley Park, Britain’s Second World War code-breaking and intelligence-analysing centre, will be acknowledged today at a nursing home in Dublin.

The British ambassador to Ireland Dominick Chilcott, will present 98-year old Eileen Leslie Greer with a medal, the Bletchley O’Park commemorative badge, and certificate, headed “The Government Code and Cypher School” and signed by British Prime Minister, David Cameron. The certificate expresses the British government’s “deepest gratitude for the vital service performed during World War II”.

Excited? “Who wouldn’t be excited getting a medal?” replied Mrs. Greer yesterday in the bedroom of her Ballsbridge nursing home, smiling, looking perky, and wearing lightly the burdens of her age.

Known as Leslie (and spelling her name the male way), Greer was born to an evidently spirited mother who, during the First World War, was a motorcycle dispatch rider for the Royal Flying Corps, the then British army’s air arm.

FIRST IN GERMAN

Her father, the son of a Trinity College Dublin professor, was a barrister and shortly after her birth, the family moved to Dublin. She went to Alexandra College, then in Earlsfort Terrace, and afterwards to Trinity College where she took a first in German. By her early 20s, she was lecturing at Queen’s in Belfast when the war broke out. “It occurred to me,” she said “that there was the war going on and it seemed to me that the war was more serious than teaching German”. With the encouragement of her professor at Queen’s, she offered her services to the British government, which was quick to realise her value as a fluent German speaker.

The year after the outbreak of war, Greer found herself working in Bletchley Park, an institution then masked by near complete secrecy and only popularly known today because of films such as *Enigma* (2001) and *The Imitation Game* (2014).

Bletchley Park’s war role was to crack the German communications codes, transmitted through Enigma and Lorenz cipher machines, and then use the information in a way that did not betray to the Germans that their communications had been compromised.

Harry Hinsley, a former Bletchley cryptanalyst and editor of the official history of British intelligence during the war, estimated that the work at Bletchley shortened the war by up to four years.

RATHMICHAEL PARISH CHURCH CHOIR



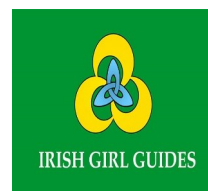
Music plays a huge part in our parish at church services each Sunday, at special occasions like weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc and in our school. Our organist and choir leader Valerie Lewis gives us her talents so generously and works tirelessly with the children's choir at school and the church choir. So much of her time goes into choosing hymns to go with the readings each week and, of course, the liturgical calendar.

Some of the choir members have had to leave the choir recently for various reasons and we would really appreciate some new voices to join us. Singing in the choir is contributing to a very special part of our parish, is very rewarding and most importantly great fun. Valerie is a fantastic teacher and we all learn so much from her.

If you can sing and would be interested in learning more please give it some consideration and contact Valerie for a chat either at church or at 284 7741. We have choir practice at the church on Thursday evenings at 8:15pm for approximately an hour when we practice the hymns and psalm and canticles for the following Sunday and learn some new pieces for upcoming special events.

Margaret Nevin

RATHMICHAEL BROWNIES ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW LEADER



After many years of dedicated service, Brown Owl, aka Kate Matthews, is in her own words "hanging up her boots"!

Brownies meet once a week in the Erck Hall, currently Monday afternoon. The girls gain confidence through games and activities drawn from the Irish Girl Guides Journey Programme.

The Unit is strongly supported by help from all the Brownie mums. However we need an overall Leader. Irish Girl Guides offer considerable back up to this role.

If you have the time, energy and an interest in working with young girls (7-10 years of age) in this volunteer position, and have or are willing to undertake Irish Girl Guides Leader Training, please e-mail rathbrownies@gmail.com to discuss further with Kate.

GRIP AND SLIP YOUTH GROUPS

2016 has started strong for the youth groups, with us jumping back in with both youth groups and a lot of great games.

This summer, we are looking at bringing Grip to a Christian youth festival up north called *Summer Madness*. These camps are a great time for community and learning. It is aimed at ages 13 to 18, and we know that the members in Grip will love it.

This January we started this year's Confirmation class, with Kiltiernan joining us.

If you have a child going to either of the youth groups, but are not getting the texts. Please do text me and I will add you to the list.

Thank you so much for all your support

Jonathan Byford
Rathmichael Parish Youth Worker

Phone 0838110533
Email: byfordjonathan@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION



The candidates from Rathmichael, Bray and Kiltiernan parishes are preparing for their Confirmation which will take place at 15.00 hrs on Sunday 6th March in Christ Church, Bray.

Please keep them in your prayers as they take this important step in their Christian lives.