

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org

Dear Parishioners et al,

Having hit a spell of 'heavy weather' and taken some shore leave to catch my breath and rest the old body and bones, I now hope to get back in harness shortly, whether in dressage mode or more draught horse mode I don't quite know. My very trusted medic hauled in another metaphor describing my situation as a 'train wreck' or like an electrical panel emitting sparks and acrid smoke, - where the main switch has to be knocked off whilst the overloads are explored and isolated before switching on again.

I am deeply grateful to Rathmichael Parish. i.e. the people of Rathmichael aspiring to be the Body of Christ incarnate. I run the insidious gauntlet of attempting to thank those who carry on the 'priesthood of all believers' while I am out of action. The Rev. Dr. Billy Marshall, Canon John McCullagh, Rev. Terry Lilburn, Rev. Rob Clements, Canon Peter Campion and Rev. Bernie Daly.

Lily Byrne and Anne Thompson have kept the ship on course through going well beyond the call of duty in the areas of Liturgy, administration and common sense.

As always our youth worker, Jonathan Byford rose to the added challenges and has set up links with the Rev. Rob Clements in Kilternan – all to very good effect. And Caroline Senior holds a wise, judicious hand on the helm by chairing the Select Vestry and working with Jonathan in the youth ministry.

Tokens of support and encouragement are deeply deeply appreciated and bring light in to darkness. There is no other parish where Sonia and I would rather serve than in our beloved Rathmichael.

Seasonal Blessings to you all and your

loved ones,

From Fred, Sonia, Hayley, Debbi

and Doola the Dog



CHANGE OF DECEMBER SERVICES

Please note that Family Service will take place on the **First Sunday in December - 4th December** - with Holy Communion so that the children can join in.

Rev. Canon Peter Campion will preach.

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



The Re-Dedication Service (Morning Prayer Rite 2) will take place on Sunday 13th December when Rev. Terry Lilburn will preach.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 11th December 19.00 hrs
BLUE CHRISTMAS

*

Sunday 18th December 16.00 hrs
SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
followed by seasonal refreshments

*

CHRISTMAS EVE 23.45 hrs
The First Communion of Christmas

*

CHRISTMAS DAY
08.30 hrs Holy Communion
11.00 hrs Family Service
11.45 hrs Holy Communion

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	08.30 hrs	11.00 hrs	19.00 hrs	LECTORS
The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT <p style="text-align: center;">Violet</p> <p>4th DECEMBER 2016</p>	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 11: 1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12 Please join us for coffee after the service	EVENING PRAYER	Kate McCauley
The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT <p style="text-align: center;">Violet</p> <p>11th DECEMBER 2016</p>	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER with RE-DEDICATION Isaiah 35: 1-10 Canticle: Magnificat Matthew 11: 2-11 Please join us for coffee after the service	BLUE CHRISTMAS	Arthur Murphy
The FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT <p style="text-align: center;">Violet</p> <p>18th DECEMBER 2016</p>	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-8, 18020 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	16.00 HRS. SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	

CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 2017

The NAMING and CIRCUMCISION of JESUS <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>1st JANUARY 2017</p>	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Numbers 6: 22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	NO EVENING SERVICE	
The FIRST SUNDAY after the EPHPHANY The BAPTISM of our LORD <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>8th JANUARY 2017</p>	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17 Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	
The SECOND SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>15th JANUARY 2017</p>	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 40: 1-12 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 29-42	COMPLINE	
The THIRD SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>22nd JANUARY 2017</p>	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Isaiah 9: 1-4 Psalm 27: 1, 4-12 Matthews 4: 12-23 Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	
The FOURTH SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>29th JANUARY 2017</p>	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Micah 6: 1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12	EVENING SERVICE	

Rathmichael Parish Church

Remembrance Sunday Address - Dr Mathew McCauley - 13th November 2016

*"We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields."*

In Flanders Fields, Verse Two, by John McCrae

Good morning. Today we have paused to mark two minutes of silence and to pay tribute to our fallen countrymen and women who served and sacrificed for us as members of the State Forces in conflicts, which are recognised as Just Wars. This simple, but powerfully personal, yet public, act of remembrance developed in part from the actions of King George V in 1919, when he invited the people to remember the Glorious Dead of the Great War. 'Glorious', not in *glorifying* war, but in honouring and *glorifying* their humanity, their lives that mattered; and their place in our communities as someone's son, father, brother, or spouse. And like me, some here today mark and honour known family members or friends who served in the World Wars or more recent conflicts.

We, in Ireland, share in remembrance today with our friends in the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and so many other nations. Around this land, in towns, villages, churches, and at monuments and graveyards, our nation pauses this morning to reflect. Indeed, as we come together, thousands are gathering in Phoenix Park for the annual Remembrance Day Run, a sign of how notable this day has become in honouring the loss of loved ones. And in Dublin city today, President Higgins, politicians, diplomats, and members of the Defence Forces will lead the country in marking this poignant day and we do no less here in our parish community.

As a people and society we are shaped by our past, and as philosopher Soren Kierkegaard has stated: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." When hundreds of thousands of Irishmen and women volunteered to serve in the Great War, a social contract was undertaken that for the duty and sacrifice of our fellow citizens, we would never forget or dishonour them in the generations to come. However, on the Late Late Show during the 1990s, Gay Byrne interviewed Dubliner Jack Campbell, a veteran of the Great War, who volunteered for the Army in 1914. Jack stated that he often thought of the lovely Irish "lads" that made the supreme sacrifice during the War. He described them each as a 'flower of the nation', buried in the fields of Flanders.

During his interview with Gay, he turned to the camera and asked whether the Nation had broken faith with these sons of Ireland and if so, they would not be resting peacefully. Indeed, the well known Irishman Lord Dunsany of Co Meath, who served in the Great War (and who, like me, served in both the British Army and the Irish Defence Forces), composed the famous poem "To the Fallen Irish Soldiers" in which he predicted how things might turn out for Irish service men after the War. He wrote:

Since they have grudged you space in Merrion Square
And any monument of stone or brass
And you yourselves are powerless, alas,
And your own countrymen seem not to care;

Let then these words of mine drift down the air,
Lest the world think that it has come to pass
That all in Ireland treat as common grass
The soil that wraps her heroes slumbering there.

Sleep on, forgot a few more years, and then
The ages, that I prophesy, shall see
Due honours paid to you by juster men,
You standing foremost in our history,
Your story filling our land with wonder,
Your names, and regiments' names, like distant thunder.

Thankfully, since that time, collective Ireland has indeed remembered its full heritage and followed the example quietly sustained by the Church of Ireland, so as to bring such commemoration into the public space once again, as seen at Glasnevin Cemetery this past Friday. One might say that populace Ireland in recent years and at the centenary of the Great War, is more formally and inclusively laying our countrymen to peaceful rest at last.

Four months ago, I had the privilege to deliver a special address here with you to reflect on the 100 years since the start of the Battle of the Somme. Next Friday will mark the Centenary of the end of that Battle, which resulted in over 1 million casualties, including an estimated 10,000 from Ireland. In total, approximately 50,000 Irishmen died in the war to end all wars, which brought grief and loss to every corner of this land. Rathmichael was not spared.

From these very pews, 31 men walked down this isle and headed off to War, 11 of them never returned. On the walls and monuments of our beautiful church we see the names of those who carried the torch of our parish for their generation; people like us who walked along the lanes and byways around this Church. Are these names that we catch in our peripheral vision week after week just part of the architecture of our Church? Or, might they actually speak to us of who they and we are.

One such name on the wall to my left is Lt Arnold Fletcher, who served with his two brothers during the Great War; and perhaps there are decedents of his here today. Arnold was the oldest of six children to George and Henrietta Fletcher of Mona, Shankill. Arnold's brother Donald served as an officer in the Leinster Regiment and his other brother, George served as a military Chaplain. Educated at St Andrew's College and Trinity College Dublin, Arnold was a successful university academic, researcher and scientist.

One such name on the wall to my left is Lt Arnold Fletcher, who served with his two brothers during the Great War; and perhaps there are decedents of his here today. Arnold was the oldest of six children to George and Henrietta Fletcher of Mona, Shankill. Arnold's brother Donald served as an officer in the Leinster Regiment and his other brother, George served as a military Chaplain. Educated at St Andrew's College and Trinity College Dublin, Arnold was a successful university academic, researcher and scientist.

Like so many brave Irishmen, he heard the call to halt the advance and brutality of Germany in the War and joined the Army on 22 May 1915. On the second day of the Battle of Arras, Arnold led his men with distinction, making a crucial gain during the fighting; he was mentioned in dispatches and received high honours for these actions. However, he was seriously injured by a shell during the battle. Arnold was admitted to the No 2 Red Cross Hospital at Rouen. Sadly, Lt Arnold Fletcher died from his injuries some 11 days later and next April will mark the centenary of his death. His remaining effects included a fountain pen, stud, pipe and a few stamps. Tragically, his parents George and Henrietta, and extended family received this news whilst still grieving for their son, Donald, who had died on operational service with the Leinster Regiment just two days before. The sorrow is hard to comprehend.

In Holy Scripture, we hear of the importance of David fulfilling God's purpose for his generation. We, who through the generations have survived wars, now keep the promise and social contract to our fellow Irishmen and on days like today, we say thank you for your service and we know that we must act in our generation to assure that such conflicts will be avoided in the future. As much effort that goes into planning, preparing for, and fighting wars must also go into establishing, defending and preserving the peace; so as to create the new Jerusalem.

Peace and justice cannot be taken for granted and must always be defended; and Lt Arnold Fletcher is but part of a long tradition of Irishmen and women who stepped forward to serve in our State Forces for such ideals. The Irish culture of honour, duty, sacrifice, and service in our official Forces stretches back over centuries, from the Battle of Waterloo, the Crimean War, and WWI; or as part of Allied Forces in WWII, Korea, and the Gulf.

These Irishmen and women were emboldened to live out the values of Christ so as to stop injustice and tyranny in a world often torn by conflict, as seen today in places like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Libya. Since the founding of the Irish Defence Forces in 1924, the values of our 31 fellow parishioners in the Great War have continued in our State Forces on military service throughout the world and tens of thousands have served in our name on UN missions, with almost 100 giving their lives honourably for our values.

Remembrance Sunday invites us to "Re-Member" that which has been "Dis-membered." By pausing today for silence, we have not engaged in a passive act or an act of withdrawal, but a confrontation and connection with the authentic self, so as to listen to the voice of God. In doing so, we hold close to our hearts those who put service before self and sacrifice for collective justice, peace and prosperity. We in our generation are the inheritors of such selfless duty.

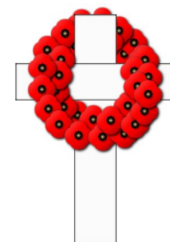
As St Augustine has said, "war must only be waged in order that peace may be obtained and even in war, cherish the spirit of a peacemaker." When Jesus said at the last supper, "Do this in remembrance of me" it's more than just a sense of passing on a precious memory, he was calling for sin and violence to be replaced by love and peace – 'blessed are the peacemakers'.

Perhaps then, the greatest honour we can now give our deceased war dead is to work for Gods' Kingdom on Earth, for which they sought and fought. We might indeed reflect on the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, the great US First Lady, politician, and supporter of the UN when she invited us to consider how we chose to live our own lives, through the challenging and soul searching remarks, which she spoke during the dark days of WWII:

*"Lest I keep my complacent way,
I must remember somewhere out there,
a person died for me today.
As long as there must be war,
I ask and I must answer,
was I worth dying for?"*

Today we heard the Last Post, played for those who died to mark the end of the day and of life. Our silence, then, a prayer for their suffering. And the Reveille, a call to awake with newness of life and a symbol of hope and joy – a resurrection that all lives are in the hands of God.

Lest We Forget



Bibliography available upon request.

THE THURSDAY GROUP



Our Christmas Lunch along with Kiltiernan Parish will take place in Old Conna Golf Club on Thursday 15th 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. Please let me know by 12th if you will be there.

Our meeting for the New Year will be on Thursday 19th January in the Rectory.

Please phone me if you require a lift @ 2824202.

Anne

CHURCH FLOWERS



December 4th & 11th TBA

18th Carol Service

25th Christmas Day

CHURCH COFFEE

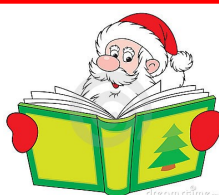
We will have coffee after the Family Service on 4th December and after the Re-Dedication Service on 11th December.



CHURCH AND BRASS CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
3rd Dec	Beverley East	Debbie Duncan
10th	Sarah Campbell	Vacant
17th	Anne Headley	Vacant
7th Jan	Frances Marshall	Heather Maybury
14th	Debbie Duncan	Vacant
21st	Vacant	Vacant
28th	Ann Thornburgh	Vacant

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



The November meeting will be on Tuesday 29th November 2016 @ 8.00 p.m. in the home of Daisy Corrie, "Dun a Ri", 1 Rathmichael Hill, Shankill. Phone: 01-2720001

The book for November is "The Forgetting Time" by Sharon Guskin.

The Book Club will not meet in December.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 31st January, 2017 @ 8.00 p.m. at the home of Linda Orr, Ballybride Cottage, Ballybride Road, Shankill, Phone: 2822471.

SUNDAY CLUB



NO SUNDAY CLUB IN DECEMBER



	4-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-12 yrs
15th January	Debbie Duncan	Jane White	Sarah Campbell
29th	Carol Beamish	Gillian Nevin	Jonathan Byford

RATHMICHAEL PARENTS, BABIES & TODDLERS



You are cordially invited to Stories and Songs by the Crib for the under 4 's in Rathmichael Church on Wednesday 14th December at 10.30 am followed by a Christmas Tree Party.

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 know by December if you are coming.

Will see you all on January 11th 2017

SUNDAY CRÈCHE



DEC	4 th	Nessa Carson	083 443 2209
	11th	Family Service	
	18th	Katie Fox	
JAN	1st	No Crèche	
	8th	Michelle Hennessy	087 908 8300
	15th	Victoria Heaton	087 687 9681
	22nd	Cara Allison	086 105 6645
	29th	Ciara Howe	087 970 3887

SLIP and GRIP YOUTH GROUPS

We have 2 youth groups here in Rathmichael. Grip is for 1st years in secondary school and up and Slip is our younger youth group for 5th and 6th class children, and we meet on alternative Saturday nights.

The dates for both youth groups for Christmas and the New Year are:

*Slip – 3rd of December
6.30pm – 8pm (Christmas Party)*

*Grip – 10th of December
7pm – 9pm (Christmas Party)*

We look forward to seeing all our members in January -

Everyone is welcome to come along.

This year we have also started a Youth Service. The Youth service is aimed at 13 to 18 year olds, with a more contemporary expression of a church service.

We meet in the Committee Room at the church and everyone is welcome.

Dates for January 2017:

**Slip 7th January
Grip 10th January
Slip 21st January
Grip 24th January**

The next Youth service will be on the 15th January
7pm - 7.30pm. And we hope you will join us.

If you have any questions about what we have for Youth and Children here in Rathmichael Parish please give me a call or drop me an email at:

Phone: 083 811 0533

Email: byfordjonathan@gmail.com

Jonathan Byford

Rathmichael Parish Youth Worker

BEYOND RATHMICHAEL and St. VINCENT de PAUL



In recent years the parish has very generously contributed to Christmas food hampers which have been given to the local St Vincent de Paul organisation and some to Bray Women's Refuge. The recipients have been enormously grateful and we know that our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal meets a real need.

Every Euro we collect is generously matched by the Select Vestry and this provides another way for the parish to show its concern for and interest in the local community.

So as before we would really like donations of CASH which will enable us to go to the supermarkets and get the best price on multiple items of food. If you would like to contribute food items these can be left in a collection box in the Church Porch or delivered to us in the Burton Hall by 9am on Saturday 17th December when we will be packing the hampers.

Many thanks.

Fiona Ashe 087 8215806

Geoffrey Perrin 087 9174452

CONFIRMATION 2017



A Confirmation Service will take place on Saturday 1st April 2017 at 3.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Bray when the Archbishop of Dublin, The Rt. Revd. Michael Jackson, will confirm candidates from Rathmichael, Bray, Kilternan and Enniskerry Parishes.

If you wish to be confirmed, please contact Anne Thompson @ 086 893 7067 and give her your name.

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 and his helpers for their work with Slip and Grip Youth Groups. Thank you to Debbie Duncan for organising and overseeing Sunday Club.

Thanks to Danielle Fletcher 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 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 annethompson2824@gmail.com and we will gladly put you in our address book. This also helps to reduce overheads with printing which loom large on the agendum!

We thank our Parish Treasurer, Michael Malcolmson and Lily Byrne for their diligent book-keeping.

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

THE CHURCH REVIEW

The subscription for the Church Review for 2017 of €40 is now due and should be paid to Carol Bond in cash or by cheque payable to her and she 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.

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

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

Dress Up Day – Coming up to half term we had a Dress Up Day for fun. Both the children and staff dressed up and there was a great atmosphere. We held a Bake Sale on the same day as a fund raiser for the school. There were an awful lot of themed Halloween items. Well done on being so creative.



Airfield - 4th class went to visit Airfield with their class

teacher. Airfield was established by the Overend Family for educational and recreational activities. It is a charitable organisation.

Airfield has a café, farm and gardens. It is very local being situated in Dundrum. Each year 4th class visit this city farm and have a wonderful experience.



Team Hope – Every year we have been getting involved with Team Hope. They send shoe boxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. We had a wonderful talk from Carol Hennessy at one of our assemblies where she brought photographs and a video of the children who received boxes last year. It is always very touching. As part of our Global Citizenship Green Flag we embrace this and encourage the children to decorate their boxes and bring them in filled with items for different age groups.

Bobbie Connolly – We had a terrific talk from a lady called Bobbie Connolly. She spoke to half the school on road safety.

So often the children pay no heed to lights and are very distracted. To try and be preventative we tried to make the children be more aware of safety issues. Bobbie became disabled following an accident whilst crossing the road. So simple. The talk had a strong impact on everyone and was very moving. She is a very positive person and has been in the Paralympics four times.

Caroline Senior, Principal.



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 15th January 2017.

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 2017.)

Name: _____

of _____
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

CAROL SINGING AT BEECHFIELD MANOR



We look forward to singing carols with the Residents and Staff in Beechfield Manor Nursing Home
on Monday 12th 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!

Any queries: Please phone Anne @ 086 893 7067
or Caroline @ 087 744 6719

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 and a copy of the annual report for this appeal will be available in the church.

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

An Taisce

Christmas Music Concert



Join us for an afternoon of music and song

at 2:30pm on Saturday Dec. 3rd

In Rathmichael Church,

Proceeds in aid of An Taisce.

Festive music will be followed by a reception of mulled wine and mince pies, to get your Christmas season off to a good start!

Tickets €15 each available at the door.



Shankill Action for a Green Earth are

pleased to announce that

Professor John Sweeney

will give a talk on

'Climate change and the impact on local communities'

St. Anne's School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill,

December 7th, at 7.30.

Martello Productions

presents

an amateur production, by kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

A Night of Comedy
with two One Act Plays

Vacant Possession

by Don West

&

The Man on the Floor

from London Suite

by Neil Simon

The Burton Hall

Rathmichael Parish N.S.

Stonebridge Road

Shankill

Fri 6th & Sat 7th January 2017

at 8pm

MARTELLO



PRODUCTIONS

Admission €10/€8 (incl. tea & coffee)

Booking line 086/2633955

Rathmichael Players

Rumpelstiltskin

PANTOMIME



RATHMICHAEL SCHOOL HALL

JANUARY 20TH & 21ST

FEBRUARY 3RD & 4TH

3:00pm Matinee on the Saturdays

7:30pm Evening Shows

Tickets: Adults €10 Children €6

Contact: 01 2824794 0877446719