

April 2017

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioners & other friends,

"If faith schools are so bad, why do parents love them?"

When Ruairi Quinn TD was Minister for Education, (2011 – 2014) he pushed his atheist agenda aggressively.

His successor, Jan O'Sullivan, (2014 – 2016) also toyed around with devolution of church run schools, but she may have had other matters to occupy her mind!

Richard Bruton TD, our current Minister for Education & Skills has now lent his ear to a more militant group who want schools to be pretty much 'disinfected' of any religious influence and input.

(As an aside. The most difficult time I have had in school management over the 25 years in Rathmichael School, was with a group of parents who were militant, anti-religious, anti-establishment, anti-every-blessed thing. One sweet mother spat at me and hissed as I took my young child by the hand into the school one morning. Who wouldn't detest being forced to open the doors of Rathmichael Parish School to such like again).

Richard Bruton offers the following bullet pointed options below as a way forward:

Rathmichael Board of Management and Select Vestry have responded thus:

"We have examined the four 'options' offered, but we deem that neither of these address the real issue of the provision of adequate '**capacity**'.

- **Catchment Area.** A catchment area approach would prohibit religious schools from giving preference to children of their own religion who live outside the catchment area over non-religious children or children of other faiths who live inside the catchment. *(There is currently no legal definition for what constitutes a catchment area for school admissions purposes)*

- Transference of children is the logical outcome.

Children who have traditionally had an entitlement to a place in 'Protestant' schools will now be refused admission to same, - thus transferring the problem.

- The **Quota system** would clearly impact adversely on the school Ethos. At present our school's ethos is attractive to very many parents in the area and we are invariably oversubscribed.
- '**Nearest School Rule**' would exclude many children of the 'Protestant' tradition, given that the catchment area in 'Protestant' terms is already wide, again causing transference of the problem.
- **Outright Prohibition** – This would have a detrimental effect on the character of the school by excluding children of 'Protestant' faith in many instances.

Faith based education is attractive to many parents. We would wish the provision of Educate Together schools for those who do not wish religion to be involved in the teaching of their children.

With the development and growth in Cherrywood and the growth of 30,000 in the community we would welcome more schools in the area. It would appear that *more* schools are required and not the changing of the nature or character of our current schools. Despite any changes, there will always be some person unhappy because their children did not get a place in a certain school."

Contd on Page 5.....

CHURCH SERVICES - APRIL 2017

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
The FIFTH SUNDAY In LENT <p style="text-align: center;">Violet</p> 2nd APRIL 2017	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION with HOLY BAPTISMS & newly confirmed first Eucharist Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45	EVENING PRAYER	Baptism Party
The SIXTH SUNDAY in LENT PALM SUNDAY <p style="text-align: center;">Violet</p> 9th APRIL 2017	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Please join us for coffee in the Erck Hall following the service	HOLY COMMUNION	Richard Marshall
EASTER DAY The FIRST SUNDAY of EASTER <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> 16th APRIL 2017	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Acts 10: 34-43 Easter Anthems Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-18	NO EVENING SERVICE	Avril Wardlaw
The SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> 23rd APRIL 2017	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER with HOLY BAPTISM Genesis 8: 6-16; 8-16 Psalm 16 John 20: 19-31 Please join us for coffee in the Erck Hall following the service	HOLY COMMUNION	Garrett O'Keeffe
The THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> 30th APRIL 2017	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35	COMPLINE	John Donovan

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - RATHMICHAEL AND KILTERNAN CHURCH OF IRELAND PARISHES

Tuesday	20.00 hrs.	Ecumenical Healing Service with Rathmichael in Kiltarnan Church.
Spy Wednesday	20.00 hrs.	Service in Rathmichael Church.
	20.00 hrs.	Service in Kiltarnan Church.
Maundy Thursday	20.00 hrs	Eucharist in Rathmichael Church with Rev. Rob Clements (Rector of Kiltarnan Parish)
Good Friday	10.30 hrs.	Morning Service – Rathmichael Church.
	20.00 hrs.	Evening Service - Rathmichael Church.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE



The Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Reverend Michael Jackson, will confirm Tom Brigg, Amelia Dolan, Vicente Grosso, Callum Hewat, Jessica Knatchbull, Lidia Uhlar Vicente and Samuel White, along with candidates from Rathmichael, Kilternan, Powerscourt & Kilbride and Bray parishes at 15.00 hrs. on Saturday 1st April in Christ Church, Bray.

Holy Communion will not be administered at this service and we look forward to welcoming the candidates from this parish, together with their families, to join a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 2nd April at 11.00 hrs. in Rathmichael church.

We would ask you to keep these young people in your prayers as they confirm the promises, taken on their behalf, by their parents and god-parents when they were baptised.

CHURCH GROUNDS



The Select Vestry has realised for some time that the existing gravel outside the church is difficult for those with reduced mobility to manage, and has been considering how this situation might be improved.

Finding the solution was not as simple as one might think as any paving proposal needs to be designed to take account of drainage levels.

The Church is Protected Structure and any alterations to the gravel area have to have the approval of the Conservation Officer of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. These issues have all been resolved, tenders have been invited and work is due to start early in April.

The work will take 4 to 6 weeks and will inevitably be disruptive. There will be no access for cars to the church grounds during the work but pedestrian access will be provided.

Your cooperation in facilitating this work is requested – the finished job will be well worth the temporary inconvenience.

PARISH REGISTERS:



Memorial Service:

Saturday 4th March 2017: E. Michael Booth, late of Marylands and Melmore, Shankill. Husband of the late Pat, father of the late Roger and Philip. We extend our sympathy to Michael's daughters Anne, Judy and Cathy, his grandchildren Gareth, Jonathan, Peter, Elizabeth and Andrew and his adored great-granddaughters Clara and Elsie, the extended family and his many friends at this poignant time.

Condolences: 7th March 2017: We note with sadness the death of Mrs. Mona Magahy (née Tweedy) beloved wife of the late Canon Gerald Magahy, Coleraine, Co. Antrim, and late of Marylands, Shankill, Dublin 18.

We extend our sympathy to Mona's daughter Adrienne, her granddaughter and her extended family and friends. *"A life well lived"*.

Rev'd. Canon Gillian Wharton

Gillian, who is rector of St. Philip & St. James, Booterstown and St. Thomas', Foster's Avenue, was 'jettisoned' by her fellow clergy and that great multitude of discerning laity, to the position of Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral Chapter at a special meeting of the Diocesan Synods of Dublin & Glendalough.

Apart from her innate charm, her 'winning ways' and mature, inquiring faith, - Gillian is noted also for her clarity of thought and forensic mind. This coupled with her conviction to integrity, means that she represents many of us foot soldiers in ministry, and she does so respectfully and without the drogue of sycophantism.

Congratulations Gillian. (Up Cork, Girl!!)

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

The PTA held a Pancake day at the school. Each child brought in €2 and the proceeds of €400 went towards the Laura Lynn Foundation. This is a day not to be missed every year and has become an annual success. Nutella, lemon juice and sugar were freely available despite our healthy eating policy!!!!



Hockey and Football have been going from strength to strength with a win and a draw in quick succession. This has not been easy with the wet weather. Play must go on and indeed has on many occasion. Much thanks must go to the organisers and the parents who volunteer their time to transport pupils to various matches and stand on the side line to cheer in the cold.

Pollinator Workshops were held in the school for pupils in 3rd to 6th classes. This was sponsored by Dunlaoghaire / Rathdown County Council to whom we are extremely grateful. These were held in our school hall and were very informative. The pupils were interested and enjoyed the time.

5th Class performed an Environmental Musical in the Lexicon Theatre in Dunlaoghaire for their parents and six other schools. This was led by Suzanne Ferris and Naomi Clarkson. It was a good experience for them to perform in an actual theatre and not just in their school. Thanks to Dunlaoghaire Rathdown County Council for enabling Rathmichael to do this.

Frank O'Neill from the Shankill Tidy Towns Committee came to speak to Junior and Senior Infants in Rathmichael NS about how they can look after their locality. He spoke to the classes about picking up litter, recycling, dog waste, graffiti and how it is important that children learn from a young age how to keep our towns tidy. He also taught them about all the work the Tidy Town Committee do. The children really enjoyed having a guest speaker and they were very interested in what he had to say. This talk inspired the Junior Infants to make posters to put up in school telling the other classes how they can look after our towns. Thank you Frank, we really appreciate all the effort you put in!



In the last Newsletter we had changed our email. We have now reverted back to the old one which is schooloffice@rathmichaelschool.com. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Caroline Senior, Principal.

Rector's letter contd....

This response has been sent to the Minister, Chris Andrews, Carrie Smyth, Alan Shatter, Olivia Mitchell, Tom Kitt, Maria Bailey TD, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Sean Barrett, Pat Breen, Colm Brophy, Peter Burke, Kate O'Connell.....

IMPACT ON MINORITY RELIGIONS

The problem will be particularly acute for Protestant schools which have traditionally been inclusive, open and welcoming schools to people of all faiths and none. Protestant schools present an attractive ethos which is popular with many parents of different beliefs.

The Minister's proposals will fundamentally undermine the provision of faith based education for minority faiths. The proposals would have the effect of forcing minority schools to deny a pupil of that faith access to a school specifically set up to provide a specific ethos.

Consequently, the Minister's measures would introduce a new injustice and unfairness to Irish education where children, particularly of minority faiths, are excluded from schools of their own ethos.

Interestingly, Mary Hanafin (Minister for Education 2004 - 2008) has been most helpful in formulating the points of view above. And whilst I carry no candle for FF, Mary Hanafin has been consistently helpful to and supportive of Rathmichael School and Parish and attends every 'bun fight' and fete over the years and she understands the merits and quality of our schools.

FURTHER UPDATE: *The non-denominational education body, Educate Together, has rejected three options for removing the so-called 'baptism barrier' to school entry, and has given conditional support to the fourth.*

In its submission, Educate Together said approaches involving a catchment area, a nearest school rule or a quota system were unsatisfactory.

It 'most fully supports' the option of outright prohibition on the use of religion as a selection criterion, but said it could not include any provision for parents to sign a declaration they would support a school's ethos.

"It is abhorrent to suggest that parents 'sign a disclaimer' that states they understand and support the ethos of a school they may only be sending their children to because they lack an alternative," the submission states.

Personally, having been that soldier, I would like an ethos which does not support spitting or using foul language at a rector or at anyone!!

Please learn what you can on this subject, and when those jolly FG or Labour representatives and others come to your door with a stack of promises - be informed and make your view point clearly and forcefully if you agree with our view points.

Fred

These are some quotes from Henry Ford—they may inspire you!

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young"

"Failure is only the opportunity more intelligently to begin again"

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do"

"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me"

"Don't find fault, find a remedy; anybody can complain"

"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses"

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing"

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals"



Outgoing Church Wardens Peter Richardson and Catherine Millar getting ready to hand over the "keys of the kingdom" to their successors.

THE THURSDAY GROUP

Prof. Keith and Mrs. Gill Tipton have invited us to their house, Cherrywood Lodge, Bridesglen Road, Loughlinstown, for coffee on Thursday 20th April at 10.30 a.m. and we look forward to seeing you then.



If you need a lift – please contact me at 2824202.

Anne

RATHMICHAEL PARENT, BABY AND TODDLER GROUP



The Rathmichael Parish Parent, Baby and Toddler Group meets in The Erck Hall, beside Rathmichael Church,

on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 hrs. to 12.30.

You are very welcome to join us, for a cup of coffee for the adults while the little ones do a bit of socialising.

As our group is quite full please check us on Facebook before dropping in.



Rathmichael Baby and Toddler Group



**Happy
Easter!**

SLIP AND GRIP YOUTH GROUPS

Our two Youth Groups are running as usual.

Each youth group takes place on alternative Saturday nights.

Grip is for secondary school aged teens at 7.00 - 9 p.m. and Slip is for any child in 5th or 6th class at 6.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

We are currently looking forward to this summer with a *Surf for Grip* being planned.

Please keep our youth programs in your prayers, especially as we prepare for Confirmation on the 1st April. (See Page 3).

There will be a Youth Service on Sunday 26th March at 7.30 p.m. in The Committee Room, Erck Hall, and we look forward to seeing you then.

If you would like to learn more about this year's summer trip or either of the youth groups, please contact me at

Phone: 083 811 0533

Email: byfordjonathan@gmail.com

Jonathan



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THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB



The April meeting will be on Tuesday 25th

April, 2017 @ 8.00 p.m. in the home of Lily

Byrne, Old Conagh Cottage, Thornhill Road,

Old Connaught - Phone: 087-2229633.

The book we are reading for April is -

“The Trouble with Goats and Sheep”

by Joanna Cannon.

APRIL - ROTAS

CHURCH AND BRASS CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
1st	Eve McAuley	Sheila Thomson
8th	Eve McAuley	Sheila Thomson
15th	Jill Bolton	
22nd	Jill Bolton	Sonia Appelbe
29th	Roy Parker	

CHURCH FLOWERS

1st - Helen Warinton

9th - Palm Sunday

15th - EASTER FLOWERS

23rd/30th - Thelma Clinton



SUNDAY CRÈCHE

2nd Sarah Mannion

9th Family Service

16th Arlene Clinch

23rd Gillian Bourne

30th Nessa Carson



On Easter Sunday there will be a Cross in the church and members of the congregation are invited to bring some flowers and help to decorate it .

Note: Please come a little bit earlier than usual so that we have time to do this before the service begins.

SUNDAY CLUB

DATE	4-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-12 yrs
2nd	Debbie Duncan	Niamh Ann McCann	Sarah Campbell

CHURCH COFFEE

9th Carol Bond, Una Cosgrave,
Olivia Uhlar and Helen Darcy

23rd Jill Bolton, Corinna Dolan,
Heather Hewat and Sharon Cole



Rev'd. Canon Gillian Wharton

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Congratulations Gillian. (Up Cork, Girl!!!)

Martello Productions

presents

by kind permission of The Gallery Press

The Burton Hall
Rathmichael Parish N.S.
Stonebridge Road
Shankill



The Broken Jug

by John Banville
(after Heinrich von Kleist)

Thur 27th - Sat 29th April 2017
at **8pm**

MARTELLO



PRODUCTIONS

Admission €12.50/€8 (incl. tea & coffee) Booking line 086/2633955

"The Broken Jug" by John Banville is a translation of "Der Zerbrochene Krug" by Heinrich von Kleist (1777 -1811).

The setting has moved from the original's location in the Netherlands to famine stricken Ballybog, a small town in the west of Ireland, in August 1846.

In this cleverly calculated comedy a corrupt magistrate is forced to preside over a trial for a crime he himself has committed.