

FEBRUARY 2018

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

[www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org)



*Dear Parishioners and other friends,*

One can get punch drunk and weary of debates and argument on a multitude of subjects on air or in print. And some churches offer a definitive answer to some moral and ethical questions to such issues as the **Repeal of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment**. "One size fits all" solution.

I sailed with a captain who frequently promulgated his theory that in leadership one must make a decision quickly whether it be right or wrong. Big ships sometimes move out of port and weather the tempest in open water if a hurricane, typhoon, cyclone, is coming rather than being hamstrung in the port. Our captain decided to stay in port but the ship didn't, and she snapped the warps and as ever those rocks are very hard. It is testament to the crew's respect for him that those of us called to the enquiry were loyal to a man in our testimony. As we left, he said with a smile *"it would appear that I got that decision wrong gentlemen. Like Fagin Reviewing the Situation, I think I'd better think it out again"*. Much of that respect came from his dealing fairly and pastorally with each crew member's circumstances in the cut and thrust of sea life.

It is interesting to see Michael Martin FF adjust from a strong "Pro Life" stance to moving towards accepting the inappropriateness of 'One Size fits All' legalisation. His mellowing of stance comes through his experiences of real, earthy pastoral situations. Similarly Fr. Brian Darcy winces at the Dialogue of the Deaf debates involving "Pro Life" and "Pro Choice" advocates. He grimaces at the polarisation which these terms portray. Again, as a pastor he knows that there is a host of differing and complex circumstances in the real world. Further, a dear friend of my family who is medical doctor, spent part of her training in Inverness in Scotland where the work of the Marie Stopes abortion clinic and a training hospital there did not sit easily with her. A quick Google of Marie Stopes services UK sets one to wonder if the flood gates would burst in this island of Saints & Scholars. God help us. Literally.

We could do with some good and positive news.

It can be a salutary feeling when the Guards seem to look very young. Well, excitingly within Rathmichael Parish we have a 'new home-grown' member of An Garda Síochána who has a wide vista on life. Having attended Rathmichael Parish National School, Newpark School, UCD (*French & Spanish*), spent an extended time in Spain; then DCU (*International Security and Conflict Studies*), - Tim Allen is posted in Donnybrook Garda Station.

Not being the best at the Gaelic language, it took a red faced occasion for me at a quiz night to learn that "An Garda Síochána" translates to *"The Guardian of the Peace"*.



*Proud parents Rodney and Jill with Tim at his 'Passing Out Parade' in Templemore.*

At a recent meeting of the Select Vestry, discussion focused on the desirability of some 'new blood' on the select vestry and a magnanimous offering of some members to hang up their boots. It is a case of old dogs showing new members the ropes BUT also new members showing old dogs new tricks and re-energising all the members.

At the same meeting as we discussed the Finances, it is obvious that nature calls some good and faithful parishioners home. Consequently it is necessary to promote the use of the **Envelope Scheme or the Direct Debit** methods of giving in order to sustain our good financial health to the greater glory of God in this place.

Because Easter is early (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018) I have deferred the Easter Vestry to the following Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 hrs.

Prayer is necessary for our spiritual health. But I suggest that you don't struggle with it but depend on the prayers of others if you are 'stuck and fallow'. A struggling swimmer is best to try to relax and float.

*God bless,*

*Fred*

## CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2018

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
<b>The SECOND SUNDAY before LENT</b>  <p style="text-align: right;">Green</p> <b>4th FEBRUARY 2018</b>	H.C.	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 Psalm 104: 26-35 Colossians 1: 15-20 John 1: 1-14	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	<b>Avril McWilliams</b>
<b>The SUNDAY before LENT</b>  <p style="text-align: right;">White</p> <b>11th FEBRUARY 2018</b>	H.C.	<b>FAMILY SERVICE with HOLY BAPTISM</b>  2 Kings 2: 1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 Mark 9: 2-9  Please join us for Coffee after the service	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>Keith Garland</b>
<b>The FIRST SUNDAY in LENT</b>  <p style="text-align: right;">Violet</p> <b>18th FEBRUARY 2018</b>	H.C.	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15	<b>COMPLINE</b>	<b>Anne Headley</b>
<b>The SECOND SUNDAY in LENT</b>  <p style="text-align: right;">Violet</p> <b>25th FEBRUARY 2018</b>	H.C.	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>  Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25  Please join us for Coffee after the service	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>William Coulter</b>

### ASH WEDNESDAY - 20.00 HRS - WORSHIP SERVICE

#### PARISH REGISTERS:

##### Marriage: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017:

Clare, daughter of Peter and Audrey Williams, Aubrey Grove, Shankill, Dublin 18, and Mark, son of Jeffrey and Wanda Murray, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

We wish Clare and Mark every blessing and many years of happiness as they begin their married life together.



#### Holy Baptism:



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018:**

Lola Katherine Saul, daughter of Andrew and Enda Bond, Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6 and granddaughter of Brian and Carol Bond of this parish.


We welcome Lola to her Christian family and we pray that she will grow to honour the promises made for her at baptism by her parents and godparents.

## FEBRUARY ROTAS


### CHURCH & BRASS CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
3rd	Ann Thornburgh	Fiona Ashe
10th	Ann Thornburgh	Fiona Ashe
17th	Suzanne & Dean Russell	Valerie Martin
24th	Suzanne & Dean Russell	Valerie Martin

### CHURCH COFFEE

11th	Paul Barron John Bolton & Douglas Grey	
25th	The Coulter Family	

### CHURCH FLOWERS

4th & 11th	Corinne Hewat	
18th & 25th	Helen Warinton	

4th	Danielle Fletcher
11th	Family Service
18th	Grace O'Brien
25th	Julie Perrin

### SUNDAY CLUB



	4-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-12 yrs
4th Feb	Shirley Farrell	Hannah Harty	Debbie Duncan
25th Feb	Hannah Harty	Carol Beamish	Jonathan Byford

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### THE THURSDAY GROUP

We will meet for coffee at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 15th February in the home of George and Verna Knaggs, Ferndale Road.

If you require a lift - please contact me.

Look forward to seeing everyone then.

Anne - 282 4202



### THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday 27th February, 2018 @ 8.00 p.m. The venue and book for February will be decided/chosen at the January meeting and details of same will be broadcast through the Book Club's WhatsApp group.

### RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

Saturday 24th February

Meet at 11am at the Church.

While the weather is unpredictable, there will be a choice of two walks and we can decide on the day.

Everyone welcome.

### Shankill Active Retirement Association

Sadly, after 15 years, **SARA** has closed due to the lack of people willing to form a committee.

However, if you are 50 or over, would you be interested in becoming involved in starting up a new group with the aim of meeting on a regular basis and taking part in various activities?

For more information please contact  
Pat O'Connor 2820733 or 087 6561107

Scrabble, the Book Club and the Art Group will continue as at present.

New participants are always welcome.



# RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

## Fields of Life

Every month we collect money for Fields of Life to sponsor two children, Caleb and Rebekah, for their education in Uganda. Previously we have sponsored children and they have gone on to become an electrical engineer and a lawyer. This is part of our Global Citizenship Flag which we are trying to attain this year. A group from Uganda came touring to Ireland and Scotland to promote Fields of Life and to get sponsorship. They performed for the school and spoke about the children we support and have supported. It was a lovely experience for the school showing the children what our collections are all about and making it real for them. Hopefully we will continue to do this for a long time.



## Volley Ball/ Soccer

John Scottus Secondary School and ourselves teamed up for a project this year. The Transition Year students came and played Volleyball and Soccer with our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes. This was a great experience for them showing responsibility and respect for the different age groups. We were tremendously lucky with the weather and the children looked forward to it every week. I would like to thank John Scottus School for this opportunity and hope to liaise with them again in further projects.



## Don Briggs



Don Briggs, author of 'The Boy who wanted a Dragon' came to visit the school with his illustrator. He has been to the school before. This time he promoted his new book 'The Return of the Dragon'. This he sold at the school for €10 and all proceeds went to Temple Street Hospital. We have recently renovated our library and are trying to have authors in and to promote it with the children. We hope to have a few more over the next few terms.

## Art and Wine

We held our annual Art and Wine. The theme this year was 'Fairytales' which was in keeping with our new library. The children displayed wonderful artwork and there was a lovely atmosphere on the night. Well done PTA and teachers on the evening.



## Drama

Drama and music are a huge part of Rathmichael School. Both 4<sup>th</sup> Class and the Infant Classes put on shows for the parents and the school. They were of a very high standard and great thanks must go to the staff and Naomi, our Music Teacher for this. They appear to get better and better each year.





## DECEMBER 2018 - FAMILY SERVICE:

Our Family Service in December was a joyful occasion as the Sunday Club (4 year olds – 12 year olds) had a very informative and enjoyable lesson on how, what and why we celebrate The Holy Communion. The Revd. Cathy Hallissey along with her very well behaved orangutan Copperpot, held everyone's attention as she explained The Holy Communion in simple terms to a multi-age congregation. (It is possible that some of the more mature parishioners learnt something as well!!)

The children then joined the adults at the Communion Rail while Revd. Cathy celebrated Holy Communion. We would like to record our thanks to her for a most informative and age appropriate service. Our thanks also to Jonathan Byford, our Youth Worker, Debbie Duncan the leader of the Sunday Club, Anne Thompson and Lily Byrne, our Junior Worship Team, who plan and organise services for the children throughout the year.



Following the service - POSADA began! The Kidd family took Mary and Joseph home for their first night journeying around the parish.



Great excitement pre-Christmas for our youngest parishioners as they welcomed Mary and Joseph into their homes each day from 1<sup>st</sup> December until Christmas Eve.



They played at the Christmas tree and they were invited to share a bed with one young lady.

Mathew and Madeleine safely delivered them to the church on Christmas Eve to enter the stable and await the arrival of baby Jesus.

This is a marvellous way to introduce our little ones to the Christmas story and from all accounts the parents enjoyed taking part too.





*A wonderful Edwardian Tea Party took place in The Erck Hall early in January. Ladies and gentlemen in Edwardian dress enjoyed delicious sandwiches, pastries and scones and really played the part of by-gone days. A very enjoyable time was had by all. The result was that a very generous donation was made to the rector's Discretionary Fund for which he would like to thank everyone involved. Those who attended and those who helped make it such a delightful event.*



# Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported our appeals this year.

Many thanks from the rector for the generous donations to his Discretionary Fund and also to Sonia and her team for the proceeds of the Edwardian Tea Party.

Many thanks from Anne Thompson on behalf of the Bishops' Appeal, for your donation. This money goes to support projects that provide sustainable Education, Medical and Rural Development and respond to Emergencies and Disasters.

Geoffrey Perrin and Fiona Ashe wish to say A Massive thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas hamper appeal for St Vincent de Paul and Bray Women's Refuge.

The response from the parish was **MAGNIFICENT** and it enabled us to produce some 95 hampers and cheques totalling Euro 3,000 were given to St Vincent de Paul.

This is what the concept of Beyond Rathmichael is about and both organisations have written to express their very sincere thanks.

Parish take a bow.



*Hampers lined up and ready for delivery!*

## CHURCH KEY HOLDERS



We are in the process of compiling a register of the names of everyone who has a key to the church.

If you have a church key - please let me know immediately so that we can put your name on the list and, most importantly, advise you of details of the new Alarm System which is currently being installed.

Please text your mobile number and email address to

[annethompson2824@gmail.com](mailto:annethompson2824@gmail.com)

Many thanks



I said to the man who stood  
at the gate of the year

“Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown”

And he replied  
“Go out into the darkness and put  
your hand into the hand of God  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way”

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957).



## GRIP YOUTH GROUP ON THEIR 'NIGHT OUT' ICE SKATING



### SLIP & GRIP YOUTH GROUPS

Our Youth Worker, Jonathan, meets with Slip and Grip Youth Groups on alternative weeks. For details he can be contacted @ 083 811 0533 and Email: [byfordjonathan@gmail.com](mailto:byfordjonathan@gmail.com)



### CONFIRMATION

Jonathan is preparing a group of candidates for Confirmation which will take place on  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 14.00 hrs.**  
in Christ Church, Bray, when His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson, will confirm young people from this parish along with candidates from Bray and Kiltarnan.  
Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to confirm the vows given on their behalf, by their parents and godparents, at baptism.



## Join us for

The Parenting Children Course

**The Parenting Children Course**  
for parents of children aged 0-12

**Date:** 5 February - 19 March 2018  
(break for half-term)  
**Time:** 7.45-9.45pm  
**Venue:** Crinken Church, Shankill  
**Duration:** 6 week course – Monday evenings  
**Total Cost:** €10

#### Sessions cover:

- Building Strong Foundations
- Meeting Our Children's Needs
- Setting Boundaries
- Teaching Healthy Relationships
- Our Long-Term Aim

#### Booking Essential:

[shankillparentingtogether@gmail.com](mailto:shankillparentingtogether@gmail.com)  
or text 087 6433253



**Together In Parenting - Shankill Churches Together**  
Crinken Church • Rathmichael Church • St Anne's Church

*If there are any parishioners who would like to help on Hospitality or Welcome teams please contact us.*

*Also, we need about 10 people to host the Discussion groups. Be great to have maybe 3-4 from each church. They will work in pairs simply to help parents feel welcome & guide the discussions. We will have a training evening on Mon 22nd Jan.*

*As a Shankill Churches Together project, it's a fantastic opportunity for us to get to know our community and serve them in this way.*

*Contact Sharyn or Olly at*

[shankillparentingtogether@gmail.com](mailto:shankillparentingtogether@gmail.com) or

0872592855