

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioners,

The ancient Roman god Janus is associated with beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways passages, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. It is conventionally thought that the month of January is named for Janus but this is sometimes disputed. Somewhat earlier (or later if you prefer) the parish finds itself in the month of December looking to the past and the future. For over twenty-seven years, the parish has been blessed to have had a rector who has guided and steered it, quietly, confidently and with a sure hand on the tiller. It is said that one doesn't miss the water until the well runs dry but in this case, you knew what you were losing and a big pair of shoes will be required to fill the space left behind. It is a credit to Fred and to Sonia that the parish is in such good "shape". It is also financially sound and despite the vicissitudes of recent years continues to support, through its giving, many worthwhile causes in its annual disbursements.

So much for looking back. We must now look to the days ahead. We await with interest and a certain amount of speculation, the appointment of a new rector, who in former times would in addition to his (always a his!) ecclesiastical duties, be required merely to be something of an expert on drains and gutters. Today a parish requires someone, male or female (hurrah), who ideally will be: a good liturgist, cantor, preacher and pastor, ecumenist, gardener, electrician, plumber, accountant, committee person, tractor driver, event organiser and of course, "good wit de youth". On a more serious note, however, we hold in our thoughts and prayers, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our bishop whose responsibility it will be for the selection of the new incumbent.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the encouragement, help and support that I have received from the parish and the school during my time here. It is indeed a privilege to serve in a parish where there is such goodwill, enthusiasm and support for the work that is undertaken. Whatever happens in the immediate future I am confident that the parish will only go from strength to strength.

As autumn leaves us and the winter weather takes hold, please be more careful than usual as you go about your daily business. A slip or fall can have catastrophic consequences and the last thing any of us want is to be laid up at home or in hospital over the holiday season. If by some chance you do find yourself incapacitated, please do give me a call, I am only too happy to visit and there is no need for tea and cake! Again, if you would like to receive Holy Communion at home over the holiday period or know someone who would, please get in touch as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Thank you also for the feedback on my article regarding the introduction to the BCP and Glossary of terms. Hopefully the editor will have found space in this issue for the second part which is in fact a glossary of terms we use in the Church of Ireland. Parts one and two are now available in handy A5 booklet form in the church porch. More to come in the New Year.

As this issue of the Newsletter has to cover a number of months there may be additions and or amendments to the diary. We will do our best to give you as much notice as possible of any changes.

Writing this in November it seems most improper to be wishing you all greetings for Christmas and the New Year, but to all the people that I will not see between now and then, may I wish you God's every blessing for the coming season and for the coming year.

And finally..... I've bought the duchess a wooden leg for Christmas. It's not her main present, it's just a stocking filler.

Terry

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday 15th December 7.00 p.m.
BLUE CHRISTMAS**

Sunday 22nd December 4.00 p.m.

**SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS
Followed by seasonal refreshments**

**CHRISTMAS EVE 11.00 p.m.
The First Communion of Christmas**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Family Service
11.45 a.m. Holy Communion**

The Sage

There was once a teacher who had a reputation for his somewhat unorthodox views on life and living. None of his work came in published form and so one day some students set out to hear in person some of what he had to say.

Meeting them at his home, he asked them what it was they wished to know. "Teacher," they said, "we have heard that you hold views on life and living that are somewhat unusual, could you perhaps explain some of your philosophy to us?"

The teacher asked them how they had made the journey to his home. "We came by car," they replied. "Tell me what you observed on your journey"

"We noticed that there were a great many cars exceeding the speed limit, whilst there were others who drove extremely slowly. There were some who drove carefully and considerately. There were many, particularly cyclists who did not obey the rules of the road, did not signal their intentions or use the designated lane. We stopped off briefly at a shopping centre where we observed that there were special parking spaces for disabled drivers being used by people who clearly were not disabled. What has all this to do with your views of life?"

"It is quite simple," said the teacher. "What you observed is that how a person behaves when using the road will often indicate just what sort of person they are."

"Explain to us the parable of the road users," the students asked.

"Those whom you saw exceeding the speed limit are the people who are always in a hurry, they believe they are important but do not allocate the correct amount of time to complete the task they have in hand. They rush through life giving no heed to what is happening around them. The slow drivers are those who do not take risks or feel the need to make changes. They reach their destination but add nothing to the gaiety of life.

Those who do not obey the rules of the road are the careless ones of this world. They believe that they can do as they please without thought for the greater good of society.

Those who took parking spaces designed for others are selfish and self-indulgent. Cocooned in their own, self-centred ways they care nothing for the needs of others.

"But what of the careful drivers? You did not mention them.

"Indeed, a few are caring and considerate of others. "But we saw more than just a few like this." Indeed you did my child, those were the ones with penalty points on their licence!



Sunday 17th November was Remembrance Day for Road Traffic victims. Lily read this very poignant poem which should make us all think when we are driving a car or motorcycle.

"Bunches of Flowers tied to a tree"

by a Liverpool Policeman

*Bunches of flowers tied to a tree,
Bright coloured ribbons,
A little teddy,
Been there for months,
Been there for years,
The pain never goes, nor do the tears.*

*Witness appeal, what did you see?
Is anyone out there,
Please speak to me.
Tell me what happened,
What was it for,
Isn't it true they were breaking the law?*

*Somebody's daughter, somebody's son,
Somebody's Grandma,
Perhaps somebody's mum.
Taken forever, will never come back,
That was the place,
Right there on the tarmac.*

*Where are the cameras, the CCTV,
Many, many, more cars
Than in two thousand and three,
Look at that driver,
He is using the phone,
Look at that child
Crossing all on her own.*

*And as I drive past
I think of those who
Died on that night that I never knew.
I pray for the day,
When we as a nation,
Can respect and protect God's greatest creation.*

*I remember the day of that fatality
And the bunches of flowers
I tied to the tree,
It wasn't my Grandma,
My mum or my dad,
I was the policeman ever so sad.*

GLOSSARY OF LITURGICAL AND OTHER TERMS

CLOTHES

Robes/vestments. Apparel worn by those officiating at church services. The term “**robes**” is used by Anglicans whilst “**vestments**” is usually used in the Roman Catholic Church.

Alb: A simple white garment coming down to the ankles (from the Latin – albus = white). Worn for sacramental services together with a **stole**.

Cassock: A plain black full-length coat-style garment (formerly an outdoor coat) worn under a **surplice** for non-sacramental services.

Chasuble: Only worn in churches that use “full vestments”, it is the outer garment worn over the alb and stole. Similar in style to a poncho, it is usually ornately decorated and embroidered.

Collar: The clerical collar worn by ordained clergy is symbolic of the Roman slave collar. It is a reminder to the wearer that he/she is not only a servant of God but also of the people.

Cope: a long cloak-like, highly decorated vestment worn for ceremonies and processions.

Scarf: A strip of plain black (ordained clergy) or blue (diocesan reader) cloth also known as a preacher’s scarf. Worn across both shoulders with cassock and surplice.

Stole: More elaborate than a scarf, being of different colours (see **liturgical colours**) it may also be decorated with a symbol such as a cross, a chalice, a lamb, a dove or other ornamentation and fringed at the ends (Deut. 22:12). Worn across both shoulders by a **priest** and the left shoulder only by a **deacon**.

Surplice: A wide-sleeved, very full white, linen tunic worn over a cassock. The length can vary.

PEOPLE

Archbishop Head of a province of the Anglican community of which Ireland has two – the Province of Armagh (7 dioceses) and the Province of Dublin (5 dioceses) An archbishop is regarded as “*primus inter pares*”- first among equals. Title: The Most Reverend (Dr) *Name*, Primate of All Ireland (Armagh), Primate of Ireland (Dublin). Addressed as “Archbishop”

Archdeacon: Administrative assistant to a **bishop** or an **archbishop** and having responsibility for assisting the clergy of the **diocese**. Title: The Venerable *Name*. Addressed as “Archdeacon”

Bishop: of a diocese which is a geographical unit consisting of a number of parishes. Title: The Right Reverend (Dr) *Name*. Addressed as Bishop. The Bishop of Meath takes the title The Most Reverend.

Canon: A diocesan canon is a member of the chapter of the national cathedral (St Patrick’s) and is elected by members of the diocese. Canons of the diocesan cathedrals are appointed by the bishop of the diocese. Title: Reverend Canon. Addressed as Canon.

Clergy: A generic term for persons who have been ordained.

Curate: Formerly this was the term used for the person in charge of the parish whose responsibility was “*the cure of souls*”. (See BCP p.184:4) Nowadays it is used to signify an assistant to the rector and is sometimes designated “curate-assistant”. A curate may be a deacon or a priest. It is usually necessary for a person to serve at least three years as a curate before applying for a position as **rector** of a parish.

Deacon: The third of the three “orders” of clergy recognised by the Anglican Church. Following a period of training, men and women are ordained to the diaconate by the bishop of the diocese in which they are to serve. After a year (sometimes longer) and providing they have passed the requisite educational standards, they may be ordained to the priesthood. Deacons carry out all the functions of a priest with the exception of pronouncing absolution, the consecration of the bread and wine for Holy Communion, the giving of a blessing and officiating at a marriage ceremony. Once ordained a deacon takes the title Reverend.

Dean: The head of a cathedral or collegiate church.

Title: The Very Reverend (Dr) *Name*. Addressed as Mr Dean.

Lector: Person who reads the Old Testament Lesson, the Epistle and or the New Testament in a service. This may be an ordained or non-ordained person but the latter is only permitted to read the Gospel at non-Eucharist services.

Lay reader: a person who following a period of training has been authorised by the bishop to read Morning and Evening Prayer, Service of the Word and part of the Service of Holy Communion. A **diocesan reader** is also licenced to preach anywhere in the diocese in which they have been commissioned and may wear a blue **scarf**.

A **parish reader** carries out duties similar to that of a diocesan reader but is not allowed to officiate outside their parish and have restrictions on their preaching. They may wear a cassock and surplice but not a preaching scarf.

Minister: In the BCP this is a generic term used where either a **lay reader** or ordained clergy may read a part of the service.

Ordinand: A person studying for ordination in a theological college.

Priest: a person authorised by the bishop to carry out all the functions of Christian ministry including the giving of absolution, preaching, the administration of the **Sacraments** and the blessing of the people. They are also licenced to perform marriage ceremonies. In the Church of Ireland this office is open to both men and women.

Rector: A priest who has overall responsibility for the running of a parish. His or her appointment comes after selection by a Board of Nomination comprising members of the parish and others and ratified by the bishop of the diocese.

Rural Dean: An administrative role, acting as a conduit between the archdeacon and a number of parishes (rural deanery) within a diocese.

In the absence of a rector (e.g. during a vacancy or illness) may chair the meetings of the Select Vestry and ensure a **minister** or **lay reader** is available to officiate at services in the parish.

FURNITURE AND FABRIC

Hangings: The “*frontal*” on the Holy Table (Altar), the “*fall*” on the pulpit bookrest as well as the *bookmarks* on the **lectern**, usually coinciding with the **liturgical colours** of the season.

Lectern: Made from brass or wood and often in the form of an eagle, it is the stand on which the Bible or **lectionary** is placed for the reading of scripture and or the Prayers of the People (Intercessions) BCP page - 206. The eagle symbolises the Word of God being carried high and wide over the earth.

OTHER

Diocese: Geographical grouping of a number of parishes

Episcopal: A Church that has bishops as a part of its structural hierarchy who act as part of its governing body.

Lectionary: A compilation of readings from scripture making provision for the [liturgical year](#) with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons. The Revised Common Lectionary (1994) is widely used throughout the Church of Ireland.

Liturgy: Literally, “the work of the people” but is usually taken to mean the fixed forms of church worship and all matter pertaining to it.

Rubric: a direction, printed in red, in the BCP as to how a church service should be conducted.

Sacraments: “... *an outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace*”. The Anglican Church recognises two Dominical (Major) Sacraments as instituted by Christ. These are Holy Baptism and Eucharist (Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper). Other spiritual markers in the faith journey include Confirmation and Marriage (Minor)

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
The FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 1st DECEMBER 2019	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44	EVENING PRAYER	Daniel Mansergh and Aoife O'Driscoll
The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 8th DECEMBER 2019	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE 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	H.C.	Sunday Club
The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 15th DECEMBER 2019	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 35: 1-10 Canticle: Magnificat James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	BLUE CHRISTMAS	
The FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 22nd DECEMBER 2019	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25	16.00 HRS SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	
The FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS White 29th DECEMBER 2019	H.C.	CAROLS FOR ALL	NO EVENING SERVICE	Michael Barrett
The SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS the EPIPHANY White 5th JANUARY 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-15 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 3: 13-17	EVENING PRAYER	Daisie and Trevor Corrie
The FIRST SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY The BAPTISM of CHRIST and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows White 12th JANUARY 2020	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17 Please join us for coffee after the Service	HOLY COMMUNION	Sunday Club
The SECOND SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 19th JANUARY 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	COMPLINE	Neville Thompson
The THIRD SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 26th JANUARY 2020	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-12 Matthew 4:12-23 Please join us for coffee after the Service	HOLY COMMUNION	Caroline Senior

ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

CHURCH CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
7th Dec	Fiona Ashe	Beverley East
14th	Anne Headley	Jenny O'Keeffe
21st	Anne Headley	Pamela Bradley
28th	Vacant	Vacant
4th Jan	Fiona Carthy	Beverley East
11th	Fiona Carthy	
18th	Frances Marshall	Debbie Duncan
25th	Debbie Duncan	

CHURCH COFFEE

8th December Wendy Kenny Mark Kenny
 Louise Knatchbull Jillian Horsfield

12th January Avril McWilliams
 Sheila Thomson Corinna Dolan

26th January Sharon Cole
 Wendy Kenny Anne Golden



THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not meet in December.



The Book Club will meet on Tuesday
 29th January, 2020 @ 8.00 p.m. in the home
 of Avril McWilliams, 13 Clonasleigh, Shankill.
 Mobile: 086 881 6206.

We are reading two books for this meeting -

"The Adventures of Maud West, Lady Detective"
 by Susannah Stepleton

And

"The Lost Man" by Jane Harper

The book and venue for February to be decided and
 will be posted on the Book Club WhatsApp.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1st, 8th & 15th December Mrs. Jill Allen

22nd & 29th Christmas

5th, 12th 19th & 26th January
 Margaret Nevin



SUNDAY CLUB

DATE	4-6 YRS	7-9 YEARS	10-12 YRS
1st Dec	Shirley Farrell	Kate McCauley	Debbie Duncan

There will be Sunday Club on 19th and 26th January
 and we look forward to seeing everyone then.

Happy Christmas Everyone

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

DATE	NAME
1st Dec	Ciara Howe
15th	Noreen White
22nd	No Creche
29th	No Creche
19th Jan	Danielle Fletcher
26th	Julie Perrin



RATHMICHAEL PARENTS, BABIES & TODDLERS



We wish to invite you to our annual carol
 sing along in Rathmichael Church on
 Wednesday 11th December at 10.15 am followed by a
 party round the Christmas tree in the Erck Hall.
 Please note the earlier start time and go straight in to
 the church when you arrive.

We will have food, fun a maybe a surprise visitor

This will be our last playgroup of the year and we look
 forward to seeing you all on 8th January 2020 when we
 re-open.

Best wishes from all the leaders.

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL



3rd class has a seasonal show in October for their parents. This was enjoyed by all who attended. Great excitement was to be had by the children as they dressed up and performed. Naomi Campbell our music teacher excelled herself once again.

The charity GOAL came to our school to present workshops to 3rd-6th Classes on Global Citizenship. This was all presented through drama which the children loved. The presenter was superb and had a very good handle on the children. We have just completed our Global Citizenship Green Flag so the children were familiar with the information and able to contribute knowledgeably.



Garda Denise came to the school to visit our 5th and 6th Classes in the school. She spoke to them about the dangers of Fireworks and Bonfires to bring the children a sense of awareness before the Halloween festivities began. Our community guard Denise is a regular visitor to the school and will return again during the year.

Our school garden produced potatoes this year which the children in 3rd class were delighted to take home with them to cook. It is great to see the produce they have planted get to a table. This teaches them so much more than reading a book.



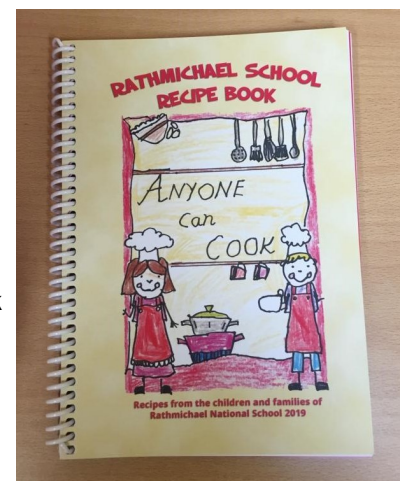
As part of our community outreach we collected food at our Harvest and brought it to the Old Folks Association in Shankill. They were delighted to see the young children and receive their goodies. It is good for the school to give back and this is a very positive way of doing this.



3rd Class visited Airfield, our city farm. This is always well run and enjoyed by all.

Our Cookbook is on sale now for €12. It was on sale on 2nd November in The Old Folks Association and hopefully again on 7th December at the Book Sale. These are available in the school office.

Caroline Senior,
Principal.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As we come to the end of another year, it is an appropriate time to thank everyone who, in one way or another, helps to keep the parish rolling along.

Our thanks to the church wardens Richard Marshall and Paul Barron for looking after "everything" at each service.

Thank you to our Parish Readers - Lily Byrne, Anne Thompson and Mathew McCauley, for their assistance with services throughout the year.

Thank you to the Organist, Mrs. Valerie Lewis, and the members of the 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 Caroline Senior for liaising Church and School. 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.

Thank you to the volunteers, Claire Miller, Michael, Juliet, Eve and Sinead, who organise the Parents, Toddlers & Babies Group on Wednesday mornings.

Thank you to Mark Thornburgh, Anne Thompson, Laura Mahon and Sarah Campbell, for looking after the many demands of safety on our premises and the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safe Guarding Trust.

Margaret Nevin and 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 Helen Darcy 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" - maybe you could spare a couple of hours in the year). This team of helpers keeps our lovely little church spic and span.



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

Always vacancies on this team! Our thanks to all involved in this work.

The onerous task of complying with GDPR has been attended to by Paul Barron, Richard Marshall, Mark Thornburgh and Lily Byrne and we thank them for their diligent work on this particular subject.

Thanks to Carol Bond who looks after delivery of The Church Review and Geoffrey Perrin who does likewise with the Gazette. (Speak to them if you would like a copy of either magazine).

Our parish Newsletter is compiled by Anne Thompson under the watchful eye of Revd. Terry Lilburn who is Editor in the interregnum.

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, 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 agenda!

We thank our Parish Treasurer, Mrs. Lily Byrne, for her diligent book-keeping. If anyone would like to donate to the church through the Envelope Scheme, please talk to Lily and she will give you details.

And last but by no means least - thank you to Revd. Terry for his pastoral care of the parish during the interregnum.

He can be contacted on Mobile: 086 886 5361

Email: terrylilburn@gmail.com

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.

BEYOND RATHMICHAEL and St. VINCENT de PAUL



Once again we are organising a Christmas hamper appeal to help the work of St Vincent de Paul. For over the past 10 years the parish has very generously contributed to Christmas food hampers which have been donated to St. Vincent de Paul and the Bray Women's Refuge. This Appeal has the financial backing of the Vestry.

The local community supports us in a number of ways, for example the parish Fete, and this is one way in which we can again contribute to **REAL NEED** in our community.

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.

Food items can be left in the collection box in the Church Porch (please make sure that they are not of date) or they can be delivered to us in

the Burton Hall at 9.00 a.m.
on Saturday 15th December
when we will pack the hampers.

Helping hand would be welcome for a couple of hours!

Cash donations can be given to us at any time!

Many thanks, Fiona Ashe 087 8215806 &
 Geoffrey Perrin 087 9174452

CAROL SINGING AT BEECHFIELD MANOR



We will have our annual carol singing evening with the Residents and Staff in Beechfield Manor Nursing Home

on Monday 9th December.

Meet at 6.45 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 Caroline Senior @ 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.

The aims of this role are

- 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, 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. They 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.

Emergency responses such as food, water, shelter and medical supplies have been made in South Sudan (CMS Ireland), Yemen (Tearfund Ireland) Sierra Leone (Christian Aid) Caribbean Region (Christian Aid) Ethiopia : Self-help groups to build resilience and reserves, as response to drought and famine. (Tearfund Ireland).

In Rathmichael Parish over Christmas we will have retiring collections for Bishops' Appeal at some of our services and, of course, contributions will be gratefully received during the year.

The purple envelopes will be in the church and we hope that you will be as generous as you have been in previous years.

You can read more about the Appeal and what it does at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you on behalf of the Bishops' Appeal,

Anne Thompson

THE CHURCH REVIEW

The subscription for the Church Review for 2020 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 - why don't you consider getting it.

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

We would take this opportunity to thank Carol for collecting and distributing the Review every month for the past years - too numerous to mention!



Many thanks to the ever faithful parishioners who came to help with the autumnal clean up of the church grounds.

We were delighted to have the assistance of members of Shankill Tidy Towns (in the yellow viz jackets) who came along and made the work much lighter.

The grounds look fantastic.

Well done everyone

Mistletoe, mince pies and marzipan – some traditions of Christmas

Mistletoe is the common name for a group of hemiparasitic plants in the order Santalales that grow attached to and within the branches of a tree or shrub. (Not many people know that). The word mistletoe is of uncertain origin however it may be related to the German *Mist*, for dung and *Tang* for branch, but Old English *mistel* was also used for basil. According to a custom of Christmas cheer, any two people who meet under a hanging of mistletoe are obliged to kiss. The custom is Scandinavian in origin. It is also traditional that each time this happens a berry is removed. The pundits tell us that this year mistletoe is in plentiful supply so there will be lots of opportunities for spreading some happiness around this Christmas.



Mince pies. The origins of the mince pie begins with the medieval pastry, *chewette* which was either fried or baked. The "*chewette*" actually contained liver or chopped meat mixed with boiled eggs and ginger. Dried fruit and sweet ingredients would be added to the *chewette*'s filling for variety.

By the 16th century mince' or shred pie was considered a Christmas speciality, but in the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell made the eating of mince pies on Christmas Day illegal.*

The name 'mincemeat' comes from the original recipe. Up to the Victorian era the mince (meat) pie would actually have been a spiced meat pie with some dried fruit. Today the only remnant of the original meat is the inclusion of suet.

Typically fillings today consist entirely of fruit-based mince-meat containing dried fruit such as raisins, currants, glace cherries, apricot, candied peel; spices such as cinnamon or nutmeg; nuts such as walnuts or chopped almonds; suet; and some kind of alcohol, usually either brandy or rum. Mince pies are suitable for vegetarians only if the suet is replaced by vegetable fat.

Marzipan. Stollen is a bread-like cake traditionally made in Germany, usually eaten during the Christmas season as *Weihnachtsstollen* or *Christstollen*. Stollen is a fruitcake made with yeast, water and flour, and usually dried citrus peel, dried fruit, almonds, and spices such as cardamom and cinnamon; the dough is quite low in sugar. The finished cake is sprinkled with icing sugar. Sometimes there will also be a filling of marzipan running through the centre. The shape of the cake was originally meant to represent the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes, and was one of a number of baked goods created to represent aspects of the life and death of Jesus: the pretzel represented Jesus' bonds, and the (hole-less) doughnut represented the sponge given to him on the cross. (Not many people know this)

Yule log. A Yule log is a large log which is burned in the hearth as a part of traditional Yule or Christmas celebrations in some cultures. It can be a part of the Winter Solstice festival or the Twelve Days of Christmas, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or Twelfth Night.

The expression "Yule log" has also come to refer to log-shaped Christmas cakes, also known as "chocolate logs" or "*Bûche de Noël*". (A lot of people know this) This law is still on the U.K. statute books (Not many people know this either) .

Terry

What will you be eating this Christmas?

In Iceland the penitential nature of Advent lives on in Christmas fasting. On December 23rd when meat is traditionally forbidden they serve boiled potatoes and fermented fish! Christmas dinner might be roast puffin or reindeer. (But definitely not Rudolph)

In Slovakia they delight in a thick sauerkraut soup, and fried carp. So central to Christmas, in fact, is the carp in Eastern Europe that many families buy a live one and keep it in the bath until it's time to cook it.

In Germany, Stollen is a firm favourite (Hurrah for Lidl and Aldi). Stollen is a fruitcake made with yeast, water and flour, and usually dried citrus peel, dried fruit, almonds, and spices such as cardamom and cinnamon; the dough is quite low in sugar. The finished cake is sprinkled with icing sugar. Sometimes there will also be a filling of marzipan running through the centre. The shape of the cake was originally meant to represent the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes, and was one of a number of baked goods created to represent aspects of the life and death of Jesus: the pretzel represented Jesus' bonds, and the (hole-less) doughnut represented the sponge given to him on the cross.

In Italy, most families avoid meat on Christmas Eve in favour of The Feast of the Seven Fishes, where delicacies such as fried eel are the star of the show (pasta and meat dishes such as Il cotechino, a sausage made from pig's intestines, are served the next day).

In Greenland where food shortages occur during the long winter months, the Inuit have a novel way of preserving food for the festivities. First, a seal skin is hollowed out to make room for something like 500 auks, a seabird that looks similar to a small penguin. The auks, feathers and all, are stuffed into the seal's body, which is then sewn up and sealed with grease. After seven months of fermentation, the birds are removed and served up straight from the seal for a very special feast.

In South Africa, for some the traditional Christmas feast includes a wriggly delicacy: fried Emperor Moth caterpillars. While most of the harvest will be dried or otherwise preserved for the winter, fresh specimens are fried right up for the holidays

Back in medieval times the preferred poultry was actually peacock! (You could try Marlay Park for one) It wasn't until Henry VIII had turkey for Christmas in the sixteenth century that it became the norm. In America (where everything is done differently) they eat their turkey at Thanksgiving and so usually have a different type of roast at Christmas but no crackers. (Their politics are crackers enough)

Legend has it that candy canes were invented in the late 1600s when the choirmaster of the Cologne Cathedral commissioned sweets shaped like a shepherd's crook so they could be handed out to children attending the church's nativity play in order to keep them quiet. The stripes came later.

Christmas cake was originally intended to be baked at the end of the harvest season and saved to be eaten at the beginning of the harvest season the following year, for good luck. The large quantities of sugar and alcohol used in their making preserved them.

According to one study the eating and drinking of turkey, ham, roasties, cake, mince pies, wine, beer, and whatever you're having yourself, done on Christmas Day alone can add up to more than 7,000 calories per person. (I prefer other studies)

Bon appetit!

Terry

In the interests of peace, harmony and goodwill over the holiday period, the following advice is offered for men of the parish.

This article is for men only. If you are a woman DO NOT READ THIS

Words a woman uses

FINE: This is the word women use to end an argument when they feel they are right and you need to shut up. Never use "fine" to describe how a woman looks - this will cause you to have one of those arguments.

FIVE MINUTES: This is half an hour. It is equivalent to the five minutes that your football game is going to last before you take out the dustbins, so it's an even trade.

NOTHING: This means "something," and you should be on your toes. "Nothing" is usually used to describe the feeling a woman has of wanting to turn you inside out, upside down, and backwards. "Nothing" usually signifies an argument that will last "Five Minutes" and end with "Fine"

GO AHEAD: (With Raised Eyebrows!) This is a dare. One that will result in a woman getting upset over "Nothing" and will end with the word "Fine" GO AHEAD (Normal Eyebrows) This means "I give up" or "do what you want because I don't care" You will get a "Raised Eyebrow Go Ahead" in just a few minutes, followed by "Nothing" and "Fine" and she will talk to you in about "Five Minutes" when she cools off.

LOUD SIGH: This is not actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A "Loud Sigh" means she thinks you are an idiot at that moment and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you over "Nothing"

SOFT SIGH Again, not a word, but a non-verbal statement. "Soft Sighs" mean that she is content. Your best bet is to not move or breathe, and she will stay content.

THAT'S OKAY: This is one of the most dangerous statements that a woman can make to a man. "That's Okay" means that she wants to think long and hard before paying you back for whatever it is that you have done. "That's Okay" is often used with the word "Fine" and in conjunction with a "Raised Eyebrow." If followed by "GO AHEAD!" at some point in the near future, you are going to be in some mighty big trouble.

PLEASE DO: This is not a statement; it is an offer. A woman is giving you the chance to come up with whatever excuse or reason you have for doing whatever it is that you have done. You have a fair chance with the truth, so be careful and you shouldn't get a "That's Okay"

THANKS: A woman is thanking you. Do not faint. Just say you're welcome.

THANKS A LOT: This is much different from "Thanks." A woman will say, "Thanks A Lot" when she is really ticked off at you. It signifies that you have offended her in some callous way and will be followed by the "Loud Sigh." Be careful not to ask what is wrong after the "Loud Sigh," as she will only tell you "Nothing"

Terry

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, names of 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 before 15th January 2020.



ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Declaration Form for new Registered Vestry Members

(If by 15th January 2020 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 15th January 2020.

_____ 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

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

We will not meet in December.

Our next walk will take place on

Saturday 25th January 2020

Meet at the church at 11.00 a.m.

Queries to Helen Darcy @ 087 234 2689

Thought for the day

If

If you can start the day without caffeine or pills,
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy
to give you time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
If you can do all these things,
Then you are probably the family dog.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

**The First Communion of Christmas (Christmas Eve) will begin at 11.00 p.m.
and not at 11.45 p.m. as in previous years.**