

MARCH 2020

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioners,

The end of February and the beginning of March mark two anniversaries in the history of Rathmichael Parish. The former is of course the retirement of the much-loved rector after over twenty-seven years in the parish. The second much less memorable, is the arrival of yours truly amongst you, one year ago. It has meant quite a change for us all, the rector and his family letting go of you and you them.

At the same time there was my letting go of the people I had pastoral care of for over seven years in my last parish, and being thrust into your arms, albeit arms which have been truly welcoming. Little did any of us think that one year on I would be still here but God works in mysterious ways and we do not always see the bigger picture that he has envisioned. *"For I know the plans I have for you"* says the Lord. (Jer.29:11)

Seven baptisms, three funerals, zero weddings, the occasional offices, have been a privilege and the services Sunday by Sunday have been greatly helped by the work of Anne, Lily and Matthew, Valerie and the choir, as well as our very dedicated churchwardens Paul, Richard, Ros and Martin. Thank you all. Thanks also to Debbie and her team for Sunday Club activities and the volunteers who look after the creche.

The end of February and the beginning of March also marks the start of Lent and although it is no longer epitomised by weeks of discipline, self-denial, mortification and the absence of any form of entertainment (no dances, cinemas closed, weddings forbidden) it is an aid to a more disciplined way of life. Time for reflection, time to step off the merry go round of life and practice a little self-restraint, to focus on what we are about, where we want to go, what we wish to achieve.

Is it just possible that our minds as well as our homes and houses could do with a bit of a spring-clean? If someone were to say to me "What are you giving up for Lent?" and I replied "I'm giving up my rigid thinking, my fixed ideas, the belief that I am always right and others are wrong," I would probably get a very strange look. "That's not proper giving up." Well it may not be "traditional giving up" but try it and see just how hard it actually is. Harder, I suggest than giving up sweets or chocolate for a few weeks.

As we go forward in the coming months and weeks, we may have to let go of at least some of the ideas and values that have comfortably sustained us over the years. Others of course are worth fighting for and holding on to but we need to be sure that we are not holding on just because that is what we have always believed.

Lent provides us not just with an opportunity for self-examination of our conscience but our whole mind-set around just what it is to say, "I believe in Jesus Christ."

As this is being read, the likelihood is that we will know the name of the new Archbishop of Armagh. Whoever is chosen from amongst the eleven possible candidates, we wish them well in their new role and pray God's blessing on them as they seek to guide the Church of Ireland forward.

May I wish all of you a holy and peaceful Lent.

Terry

**PLEASE NOTE DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY**



**10.30 hrs. Holy Communion - St. Patrick's Day
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**The General Easter Vestry following 11.00 hrs
Holy Communion on 29th March. - Page 3**

**Coffee, Tea & Chat at Marian Conboy's on
Friday 27th March - 10.30 - 1.00 - Page 8**

**Advance notice of Seder Meal on Maundy
Thursday 9th April - Page 6**

CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH 2020

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
The FIRST SUNDAY in LENT Violet 1st MARCH 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11	EVENING PRAYER	Roy Parker
The SECOND SUNDAY in LENT Violet 8th MARCH 2020	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE Genesis 12: 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 Matthew 17: 1-9 Please join us for Coffee following the service	HOLY COMMUNION	Deborah Ellis
The THIRD SUNDAY in LENT Violet 15th MARCH 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42	COMPLINE	Helen Darcy
The FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT MOTHERING SUNDAY Violet 22nd MARCH 2020	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER 1 Samuel 1: 20-28 Psalm 34: 11-20 John 19: 25-27 Please join us for Coffee following the service	HOLY COMMUNION	Barbara Fagan
The FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT Violet 29th MARCH 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45 The General Easter Vestry will take place after the Service	EVENING PRAYER	Karina Heaslip

TUESDAY - 17th MARCH 2020 - ST. PATRICK

10.30 hrs. HOLY COMMUNION

Deuteronomy 32:1-9
Psalm 145:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
John 4:31-38



PARISH REGISTERS:

HOLY BAPTISM: Sunday 9th February, Aaron Liujingyu, son of Eddie and Jingwen Liu Cao, Shankill, Dublin 18.

Sunday 9th February 2020: Elliott Benjamin, son of Ross and Deborah Ellis, Shankill, Dublin 18.

We wish God's every blessing on these children as they begin their journey in the Christian faith.



FUNERAL: Thursday 20th February 2020: Wendy (Wendolin) Breen, (née Morgan) of Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow, devoted wife of the late Tom Breen. We extend our sincere sympathy to Wendy's family, her children Davina, Carl, Adam and Toby, her mother, grandchildren, brother and sisters, her extended family and many friends at this poignant time. We will keep them in our prayers.



CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to our candidates Clara Brigg, Finn Campbell, Ellian Desmond, Daniel Hennessy and William Knatchbull, were confirmed in Christ Church Bray on Sunday 9th February along with other young people from Bray Parish. We can be rightly proud of these candidates who responded to the archbishop's questions clearly and confidently and were indeed a credit to their families and the parish. We look forward to seeing them at church and especially at Holy Communion in the coming weeks and months and wish each of them well in their faith journey.



Aaron Liujingyu, son of Eddie and Jingwen Liu Cao, with his mum Grace, dad Eddie and god-parents Kai Ji and Xin Cre.



Elliott Benjamin Ellis with his mum Deborah dad Ross and The Rev'd. Terry Lilburn following his baptism.

THE GENERAL EASTER VESTRY

SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2020

General Easter Vestry will be held on Sunday 29th March immediately following the 11.00 hrs service.

If you would be prepared to serve on the Select Vestry for the coming year as either a member, officer or warden, please give your name to Caroline Senior (Secretary to the Vestry) or one of the churchwardens.

All members of the parish whether registered vestrypersons or not, are encouraged to attend this parish AGM. (Only registered persons are allowed to vote on any issue and the election of personnel but you can participate in discussions.) We will require people to replace a number who will resign their positions this year so please consider putting your name forward.

As this is a triennial year we will also be voting for Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synods People.

Should you wish to propose someone for any of these positions - please ask them if they are agreeable to have their name put forward.

MARCH ROTAS

CHURCH CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
7th	Ann Thornburgh	
14th	Wendy Kenny	Suzanne & Dean Russell
21st	Wendy Kenny	Suzanne & Dean Russell
28th	Kim Hannigan	Sandra Ganly

CHURCH FLOWERS

7th & 14th Anne Golden
21st & 28th Thelma Clinton



SUNDAY CRÈCHE

1st Cara Allison
8th Family Service
15th Victoria Heaton
22nd Orla Martin
29th Volunteer needed



SUNDAY COFFEE

8th Ronnie Whelan
Chris Byrne
Dougie Grey

22nd Peter Richardson
John Bolton
Jim Hendry



SUNDAY CLUB

DATE	4 -47 yrs	8 - 10 yrs	10 - 12 yrs
1st	Dean Russell	Sarah Mannion	Carol Beamish
22nd	Shirley Farrell	Gillian Nevin	Kate McCauley

WINE TASTING EVENINGS



THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday
31st March 2020 in the home of Linda Orr,
Ballyvbride Cottage, Ballybride, Shankill.
Phone: 086 6484777.



The book we are reading for March is

“The Shoemaker and his Daughter” by Conor O’Clery

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

You are invited to join us on Saturday 28th March

Meet at 10.30 hrs. at the church.

Choice of walks - depending on the weather.

Contact: Helen Darcy - 087 234 2689

Terry Lilburn is a man of many talents. One of these is as a lecturer on wine and wine tasting in which area he is accredited by no less a body than the Wine Development Board and holds a coveted diploma from the Wine and Spirit Association, London.

So he enthralled two full houses in February with his knowledge on the subject - illustrated by tasting six wines on each evening along with commentary on how and where wines are made and some of the factors that make each one different. Its differing components were outlined, alongside the technique of actually tasting wine as distinct from drinking it.

These evenings were extremely enjoyable.

Thank you Terry and Breda.

Geoffrey Perrin

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

We have had several connections with quizzes in the school of late. 6th Class participated in the Core Credit Union Quiz with a team of four. They enjoyed this experience.

Our annual Adult Quiz took place in Shankill Tennis Club. As usual this was a fun event with Kevin Smith being our Quiz Master. This came with smiles and laughter. The Parent Teacher Association ran the event providing refreshments and prizes. It was very well attended. Thanks to everyone for their support.

There are children from different cultures and backgrounds in our school. It is good to give the children a flavour of these to increase their knowledge and awareness. It also breaks down any barriers there might be about the unknown.



To celebrate the Chinese New Year we had a workshop in for the children. 2nd Class to 6th Class attended these. They were held in the hall and involved dance, drama and activities. It was a colourful workshop with dragon heads, fans and umbrellas.



Cycle Training has commenced in the school. This involves an eight-week programme teaching the children about bicycle maintenance and road safety. It is half sponsored by Dunlaoghaire / Rathdown County Council. A worthy programme especially with our 6th Class preparing for Secondary School, many of whom may decide to cycle to school.

Caroline Senior, Principal.

A Christian Seder



The season of Lent is one of reflection as Christians approach Easter, the holiest season of the year, when we celebrate Christ's resurrection. I wonder however, if we give more than a passing thought to the very roots of our Christian faith founded as it is in Judaism? Jesus himself was a Jew and celebrated the Passover with his disciples. The feast itself commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt some 1500 years before the birth of Christ and the hurried preparation they had to make for their initial journey. One of the world's oldest commemorations, it is still observed by Jews all over the world today. There are usually two Seders, a community meal and a private family meal. Unlike a solemn Christian Eucharist, the Seder is a time of celebration with much story-telling, laughter and pure enjoyment. During the meal the story of the Exodus is recounted through questions and answers, psalm singing, and the use of much symbolism. Central to any Seder meal is the telling and retelling of the Passover story, to emphasise the importance of teaching and learning about what God has done. The story is traditionally told by the youngest child present who asks the so-called "Four Questions".

Among the symbols are salt water, representing the tears of the Israelites, bitter herbs representing their affliction, a lamb bone signifying the sacrificial lamb, unleavened bread and "maror" a sweet paste that represents the clay and straw used by the Hebrews in Egypt to make bricks and mortar, but is also a reminder of the sweetness of hope in God.

The Passover Seder is not just a celebration or anniversary of something which happened in the distant past. It is designed to bring those past events into the present in a very real and emotional way. To partake in the Seder is to relive the events as if they are happening now.

A Christian Seder is an interpretation of the Passover Seder in the light of Christ, reflecting the convictions we hold dear, and putting us in touch with the roots of Christian tradition by recognising how much we hold in common with the Jewish community. As we deepen our understanding of that background, we deepen and enrich our Christian faith. The meal itself is followed by Holy Communion.

We will be holding **Christian Seder on the Thursday of Holy Week - Maundy Thursday - 9th April**. By sharing in this Seder meal we will explore what God's gracious dealings, revealed in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian gospels, have to say to us today in our journey of discipleship. It is hoped that many parishioners will attend, partly for the enjoyment of breaking bread together and partly to learn something of our Christian origins.

You are cordially invited to join us at the Seder Meal which will take place in The Erck Hall on Maundy Thursday 9th April 2020 at 19.30 hrs (*sharp*)

There is NO CHARGE but (for catering) the meal is by ticket only.

There will be a form to sign in the porch or to book tickets you can contact -

**Phone : Fiona Ashe 087 821 5806
or email: annethompson2824@gmail.com**

This will be a very enjoyable evening and we hope you will come along

10 Things GOD won't ask you

10 things GOD won't ask you when you die,:

- 1..... God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- 2..... God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- 3..... God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- 4.... God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- 5..... God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- 6..... God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- 7..... God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.
- 8.... God won't ask about the colour of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.
- 9..... God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, if you've asked him into your heart, and not to the gates of hell.
- 10.... God won't have to ask how many people you forwarded this to, He already knows your decision

HAPPY MOMENTS, PRAISE GOD

DIFFICULT MOMENTS, SEEK GOD

QUIET MOMENTS, SEEK GOD

PAINFUL MOMENTS, TRUST GOD

EVERY MOMENT, THANK GOD

FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION

Our flower arrangers supreme, Margaret Nevin and Ingrid Goodbody, who supervise the Flower Rota, organised a very enjoyable evening showing the many and varied flower arrangements that can be made for presents, the home and the church. Everyone went home with ideas to inspire and some volunteers were also added to the rota.

A small reminder! Margaret will always be glad to receive offers of help with the church flowers. Please contact her and have a chat - you don't have to have experience - Mobile: 087 232 2308



Marian Conboy

Invites you to

Coffee, Tea & Chat

in aid of

The Irish Cancer Society

Friday 27th March 2020

10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

at

*8 Shrewsbury Hall,
Shankill.*

