

APRIL 2020

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear Parishioner(s) and Others,

I am sure that the last thing you need right now is someone else telling what you ought to be doing in the face of the unparalleled crisis that overtaken the world. It is, however, incumbent on us all to pull together, make some sacrifices and change our behaviour. As Christians, one of the most powerful tools in our armoury is that of prayer and I would encourage you all to join in praying for all those affected by Coronavirus at home and abroad, particularly those in the most vulnerable groups and those who are feeling anxious about their own health or that of family. We think too of those who will be financially impacted, business owners and staff who may be laid off or put on short time working hours. We thank God for the work that is being carried out on behalf of all who are sick at this time and ask for his protection for the frontline healthcare, emergency services and humanitarian workers who are putting themselves at risk and working long hours in order to keep others safe. We can all play a part in keeping each other safe and looking out for our neighbours. I know that many of you will already be thinking about how you can care for others around you and can I encourage you to do so in appropriate ways as you follow the guidelines being given by government and health services.

I had hoped that we could maintain some level of weekly worship, but even the 8.30 am Sunday service has now had to be suspended for the time being in the interests of everyone's health and safety. I have no idea how this will impact in the weeks to come especially Easter Sunday, the pinnacle of the Church's year as we remember Christ's passion and death and celebrate his resurrection. The Select Vestry and I continue to monitor the situation closely and are looking at possible alternatives to regular worship in the church. Alongside the suspension of Sunday worship, we have had to cancel all activities in the Erck Hall and Holy Communion at home, and we very much regret the inconvenience all this has caused. It is likely that the planned activities for the weekdays of Holy Week will not now take place.

Of the occasional offices (weddings baptisms, funerals) the one that is possible to be affected is the latter. I have been in touch with a local funeral director who tells me that he would be recommending to any family that is bereaved in the coming weeks and planning a service in Rathmichael Church, to limit the number of people attending to a maximum of 30. He has also told me that the service can be conducted from their premises in Bray with live televised streaming and/or recording of the service for later viewing. If you should be unfortunate enough to suffer a bereavement, please get in touch with me straight away so that together we can make the necessary arrangements.

As of next Sunday 29th March you will be able to access the 11.00 a.m. service from Rathmichael Church on YouTube. Many thanks to our wardens, Paul Barron and Richard Marshall, who have set up this facility for us. Please join us. You will find the link to the YouTube channel on the next page.

Another positive note is that a number of people have volunteered offers of help by way of collecting/delivering groceries and or medicines/prescriptions from the pharmacy. Should you wish to avail of this please get in touch with our parish secretary, Anne Thompson 086 893 7067 or (01 2824202) who is co-ordinating this service.

We will do all that we can to maintain communication with you and would ask that you play your part in assisting us with that task. Information, as it becomes available, will be posted on the parish website or sent via email. If you do not have access to a computer, perhaps you can ask a friend or family member to keep you updated as to what is being posted.

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This is an unprecedented time in the history of the world and these few words are not what I was planning to write just a few weeks ago. We go forward together and with God's help we will emerge from this crisis with renewed strength, courage and faith.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter and finish with a prayer written by the Archbishop for these straitened times. God bless you all and stay safe.

Terry

Almighty and All-loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the coronavirus and covid-19 in Ireland and across the world. We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare professionals and researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown.

Amen.

WORSHIP

For the coming weeks the Rev'd. Terry will broadcast a service from

Rathmichael Church on Sundays at 11.00 a.m.

This can be found on the YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9bOeLVvTpZNbtbgSVC_XQ/featured

Worship will continue to be streamed by the National Cathedral

<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream/>

and the Diocesan Cathedral

<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/video-stream-1/>

along with other resources that are shared via the United Dioceses Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/DublinandGlendalough/>

CHURCH SERVICES - APRIL 2020

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
<p>The SIXTH SUNDAY in LENT</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Red</p> <p>5th APRIL 2020</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29</p>	EVENING PRAYER	
<p>EASTER DAY</p> <p>The FIRST SUNDAY of EASTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White or Gold</p> <p>12th APRIL 2020</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Jeremiah 31: 1-6 Easter Anthems Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18</p>	NO EVENING SERVICE	
<p>The SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>19th APRIL 2020</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Acts 2: 14a, 22-23 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31</p>	COMPLINE	
<p>The THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White</p> <p>26th APRIL 2020</p>	H.C.	<p>MORNING PRAYER</p> <p>Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17 Luke 24: 13-35</p> <p>You are invited to join us for coffee following the service</p>	HOLY COMMUNION	

As we go to print with this Newsletter it is unclear whether any
of these services will take place

We will do our best to let everyone know when the church re-opens

THE GENERAL EASTER VESTRY SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2020

The above meeting scheduled to take place immediately after
Morning Service on that day has now been postponed until further notice

INTERVIEW WITH GOD

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

"Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"

"If you have the time," I said. God smiled and said:

"My time is eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

"What surprises you most about mankind?"

God answered:

"That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived..."

God's hands took mine and we were silent for while and then I asked...

"As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

God replied with a smile:

"To learn that they cannot make anyone love them.

What they can do is to let themselves be loved."

To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis!

To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally differently.

To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them...and likes them anyway.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves."

I sat there for awhile enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for his time and for all that He has done for me and my family, and He replied,

"Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I'll answer."

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL - PRE PANDEMIC!

BOOKS BOOKS and more BOOKS!



This month we have been very busy with Book related activities. Jackie Burke, an author, came in to speak to 3rd-6th Classes. She has written a series of five books – The Secrets of Gringlewood. She brought in a large display and read to the children from her books. It was very interesting and the children were enthused about her books.

Gillian Perdue another author came in to speak to Junior Infants to 2nd Classes. This was an exuberant show. She entertained the children and had them dancing with shouts of Yee Haa sounding like cowboys. Great fun!



World Book Day was held on 5th March and as such we had a dress up day where children dressed up as their favourite character in a book. There was an array of different characters. Many carrying their books to show their efforts. A lot of work was done to achieve this.

POST PANDEMIC

Hello everyone,

No one could ever foresee the events happening in the world today. It's like we're living through a real TV programme. Each day brings new information and we wait to see what will happen.

I ask you to keep positive and let this time we have with our loved ones be a special time. Hopefully we can all see the enjoyment we can get from simple things and good healthy home prepared food. So often we forget what is right there in front of us. The world around us moves so fast and we run at a pace to keep up.

I thank my staff for preparing work for the children and Trish for keeping us all connected. Thank you to all parents who are keeping their children amused and educated at this time. Don't worry about how much is done but the quality which is done. Spend time doing things as a family.

May you all keep safe and let's hope this passes and we will all get back together again in the not too distant future.

Caroline Senior
Principal

The Green Fingers Gang!

The Plant Stall at the Fete (yes, we must plan for the future!) needs a huge supply of plants to keep its customers happy!

Currently, the Plant Stall Manager and her small team grow the majority of plants which are sold on the day - a system which works well at the moment, but could easily fall apart if someone becomes ill or simply no longer has time to devote to gardening.

Are you a gardener who is able to propagate plants? Would you be willing to be part of a team of gardeners/growers who could commit to potting up and growing plants to be sold at the Fete next September? Ideally, we are looking for four or five plants per person - or more if you have the time and space!

So, if for example, you have lots of Rudbeckia in your garden, we'd love to have four or five of your Rubdbekia! Perhaps over the coming weeks, while observing Social Distancing and Isolation, you could look around the garden and see whether there are plants which need separating or thinning out? We need Houseplants, Herbaceous Plants, Shrubs, Fruit Bushes, Kitchen Herbs – in fact, anything with a leaf or a flower!

If you think you would like to help, phone

Susan Stuart at 087 274 74 71

DAFFODIL DAY



Marian Conboy and her team of dedicated helpers were gearing up for yet another successful Daffodil Coffee morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

As with all events planned for this month, it has been cancelled but will take place when the all clear is sounded and we look forward to your support which is so necessary and greatly appreciated.



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.

A CROSS OF HOPE AND COMFORT



Our thanks to Debbie Duncan, Fiona Ashe and Lily Byrne for their thoughtfulness in putting a cross in the church grounds so that, and others, can go along and have some quiet reflection on all that is going on in the world and take a moment to pray for the safety of those we love and those who we will never meet but who need our prayers.

RATHMICHAEL NEWSLETTER DELIVERIES

We will not be delivering printed copies of the Newsletter this month.

If you know a parishioner who does not have access to email or the web please phone them and let them know what the situation is with regards to services.

Be kind to each other - be kind to yourself and take care.

ROTAS FOR APRIL 2020

With all church and hall activities cancelled until further notice - there will be none of the usual cleaning, coffee, creche rotas in action.

Now might be a good time to sit - contemplate and consider if you would be available to help with any of the activities which are ongoing in the parish.

The Sunday Creche is looking for helpers to mind the very young while mum and dad attend the church service. Danielle Fletcher organises the helpers and she needs volunteers for one or two Sundays in the year - 087 255 8126 to contact her.

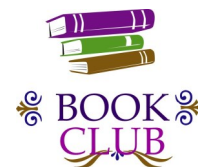
Sunday Club is where our little ones learn about God and his Son Jesus Christ in a happy and cheerful environment but, once again, leaders are always needed. Contact Debbie Duncan @ 087 647 1617 if you would like to put your name on the list.

Sunday Coffee is a great time to have a chat and meet other parishioners. Helen Darcy 087 234 2689 would be delighted to have a few more people on this team.

Margaret Nevin organises the Flower Rota and the flowers in Rathmichael Church are always beautiful - they lift the soul. If you would like to join this group - please contact Margaret @ 087 232 2308.

Church cleaning - many hands make light work and this would only be for one or two weeks in the year. Debbie Duncan will gladly take offers of help @ 087 647 1617.

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK



The book we are reading for April is

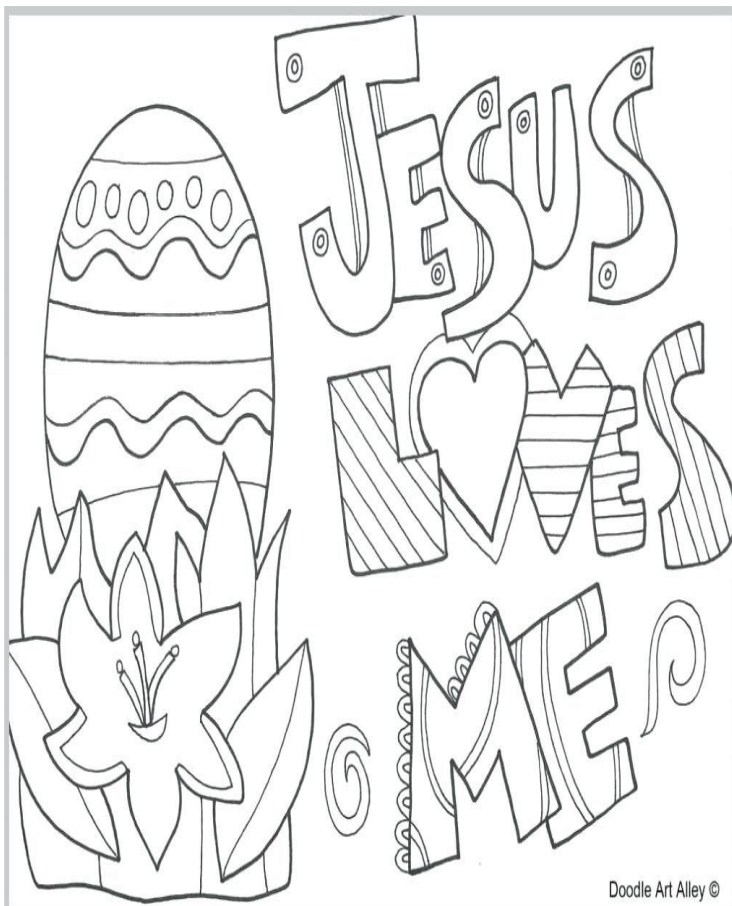
“Dear Edward” by Anne Napolitano.

Due to the uncertainty arising from the Covid-19 Virus no venue has been decided for the April meeting.

Hello to all our Sunday Club boys and girls. You might like to do a little bit of colouring so that you will not become bored while you are off school. Maybe you could keep your pictures and bring them to Sunday Club when we re-open - which we hope will be very soon.



RaisingOurKids.com



Doodle Art Alley ©

