

**MAY 2020**

**RATHMICHAEL PARISH**

**NEWSLETTER**

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



***Dear Parishioner(s) and Others,***

Sitting down to write for this issue, I find myself strangely conflicted. Since our last issue in April, so much has changed without very much actually happening. Parish activities about which I would normally be reflecting on at this time are virtually non-existent whilst at the same time we are now entering our second month of lockdown and all that condition implies.

At the beginning of April I had thought that we might be in a position to at least resume our Sunday worship in the church, especially Easter Sunday, but containing the spread the Covid 19 virus dictated otherwise with the result that Easter celebrations all over the world were seriously impacted. Judging by media reporting, it appears as if we will not be able to resume Sunday services in the church for quite some time to come. This is most unfortunate given that this month covers Rogation Sunday, the Ascension and Pentecost. Should restrictions be relaxed before the end of May, services will be at the usual times of 8.30am, 11.00am and 7.00pm. For those who attend church on a regular basis this is a significant loss in our lives. Yes, indeed we can worship God anywhere at any time, but the loss is compounded by the lack of social interaction as well as something I did not always value, the loss of fellowship with our fellow worshippers. We also miss the social aspect of church going and all that flows from it. It is also likely that the clubs, organisations as well as the school will not be able to resume for the foreseeable future.

So much for the negative side to the changes that have been wrought- what about the positives? As far as Sunday worship is concerned many churches, including Rathmichael, are arranging for broadcasts on YouTube or Facebook. These have been well received and whilst it was previously considered that people would no longer attend church if they could stay at home and watch it, there appears to be a case for broadcasting these services in the future. We will however continue with our recorded broadcasts on YouTube, albeit with time constraints, hence usually no hymns and only a gospel reading. For those who wish to avail of them, the readings for each Sunday are included in this issue.

There is also the practical assistance that is being given to those who are restricted to home such as medicine and grocery collection. We are very grateful to everyone who has offered their services in this regard and it is much appreciated by those who avail of it. I am sure that many friendships will result from these gestures of altruism.

Not widely reported, but I am sure that both robberies and violent crime are down as well as road accidents. Wildlife is flourishing in places hitherto too frequented by us humans for it to thrive although I understand that gulls have virtually abandoned the city centre due to the lack of wasted food such as chips etc not being throw away. Hopefully new habits and practices will not be abandoned when matters return to something like that which we considered normality.

Certainly we will be living in a different world with much of that which we took for granted, changed in a way we never thought possible. Some of the good intentions of doing those things which I promised myself (and A.N. Other) that I would do as soon as I had the time, regrettably, remain good intentions. However with no end in sight to one's present incarceration and enforced lay off from hospital duties, there is still some time to make a start.

In the meantime, you are all continuing in my thoughts and prayers and with gratitude for all the good wishes, help and support that I continue to receive. Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is something on your mind you would like to talk about or someone you are concerned about.

And finally...The duchess asked me what I was doing today. "Nothing" I said. She said "You did that yesterday." I merely replied, "I wasn't finished."

Stay safe and stay well.

***Terry***

**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR SERVICE  
ON YOUTUBE**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UC9bOeLVvTpZNbtbgSVC\\_XQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9bOeLVvTpZNbtbgSVC_XQ)**

**That will take you directly to the channel  
and you will see any new videos we post  
there.**

**Videos will go live at 11:00 am on Sunday  
mornings.**

## READINGS FOR MAY 2020

DATE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
The <b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b> of EASTER  White  3rd MAY 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Acts 2: 42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2: 19-25 John 10: 1-10		
The <b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b> of EASTER  White  10th MAY 2020	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Acts 7: 55-60 Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14		
The <b>SIXTH SUNDAY</b> of EASTER Rogation Sunday  White  17th MAY 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 7-18 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21		
The <b>SEVENTH SUNDAY</b> of EASTER The Sunday after Ascension Day  White  24th MAY 2020	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11 John 17: 1-11		
The <b>DAY</b> of PENTECOST: WHIT SUNDAY  Red  31st MAY 2020	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Acts 2: 1-21 Psalm 104: 26-36, & 37b 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 John 20: 19-23		

### THE ASCENSION DAY— THURSDAY 21st MAY 2020

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53



#### A CALMING PRAYER FOR THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

**“God of the good news that spreads faster than fear,  
God of the courage that comes from the heart:**

**Be with us as anxieties rise  
and with us as uncertainty grows.**

**Be with us when children ask difficult questions,  
and with us when parents seem farther away.**

**Remind us that to be a community does not always mean  
to be physically present beside those we know well.**

**It also can mean being spiritually present  
with those who feel very alone;**

**And that you as our God, the God made flesh,  
are also the God who calls us from the tumult  
and tells us to be still**

**and to know that you are God with us.**

**Amen”**

Dear Parishioners,

With regular church services in our parish church unable to take place due to the restrictions imposed on us during the Covid-19 emergency we hope you are enjoying the spirit of togetherness engendered by the Reverend Terry's 'virtual' worship services. These services are notified via email with the link to the relevant "YouTube" address.



We have all had to creatively adapt ways of working and living during these changed times.

As a regular contributor to our parish through the envelope scheme/church plate we would ask that, if you are in a position to do so, that you consider setting up a Standing Order (form on the next page) or Bank transfer to assist our parish financially at this time.

On behalf of the Select Vestry I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have recently donated by cheque or bank transfer in lieu of the Envelope scheme.

Lily Byrne  
Hon Treasurer, Rathmichael Parish,  
Old Conagh Cottage,  
Thornhill Road,  
Bray,  
Co. Dublin,  
A98 X2E7

## RATHMICHAEL PARISH NEWSLETTER

**We will not be printing hard copies of the Newsletter for the time being.**

**If you know of someone who does not use a computer and would like a copy maybe you could download it and give it to them. If there are parishioners who have not given me their email address maybe you could encourage them to do that. We want to keep everyone in the "parish news loop", such as it is at the moment, as best we can.**

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

**RATHMICHAEL PARISH CHURCH  
STANDING ORDER**

To: The Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ Bank

Please charge to my/our Account and pay to AIB, Cornelscourt, Dublin 18 and Credit of Rathmichael Parish, account details below:-

Account Name: Rathmichael Parish

Account No: 40168005

Sort Code: 93-33-92

BIC: AIBKIE2DXXX

IBAN: IE31AIBK93339240168005

The sum of Euro \_\_\_\_\_

Commencing on (date) \_\_\_\_\_

And on the same day of each succeeding;  
Month/Half Year/Year

Until \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date or "until further notice")

SIGNED:.....DATE:.....

SIGNED: ..... DATE:.....

Account Name:.....

Account No:.....

Sort Code: .....

BIC: .....

IBAN: .....

## THE STRANGER

Some years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our neighbourhood. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mum taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My parents didn't permit the use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parent's sitting room today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

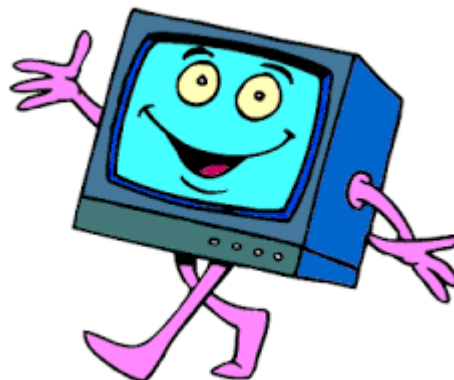
His name?.....

We just call him 'TV.'

(Note: This should be required reading for every household!)

He has a wife now....we call her 'Computer.'

Their first child is "Mobile Phone".



## RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL



Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is coping in these strange times. All we can do is take one day at a time. One would wonder what life will be like on our return. No doubt we will all move ahead in whatever way we are allowed to do.

The staff and I have been working and planning with the pupils and parents whilst the school is closed. This is not easy as there are so many different levels in each class. However, all work has been suggested so parents can use what they feel is appropriate for their child. Back tracking will have to be done when schools get back to normal and all children will be looked after.

Please do not worry about your children and do your best for them as you see fit.

Many of the children will gain from the experience in different ways. It is lovely to see families working together on projects and creative ideas which have been sent to me. I see children cooking and gardening, painting and writing. So often we don't have time to spend on these areas.

The air is clear. Wild animals appearing in strange places. The water is clear. Is nature telling us something?

I look forward to having everyone back together again and live in hope.

My prayers are with you all.

Caroline Senior, Principal.

## CHURCH GROUNDS AT EASTER

The church grounds have been looking beautiful with daffodils and primroses in full bloom and our thanks go to Dave Elmes, Fiona Ashe, Debbie Duncan and all the team of helpers who keep the place looking so good. These are the people who erected the Easter Cross and attended to its maintenance over the past few weeks. Thank you for your dedication.



The Sunday Club were invited, with their parents, to walk up to the church and count the chickens which were hiding around the grounds. Social distancing and guidelines to be kept in mind!

There were not a lot of searchers over the three days, but Sophie, Grace and Jasmine Marshall gave it a go, got the count correct and earned themselves some chocolate goodies. Well done to them and thank you to our Sunday Club leader, Debbie Duncan, for setting up this fun event for the children.

## SAFE GUARDING TRUST

*“It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm “*

The Church of Ireland Safe Guarding Trust has been put in place, and has been adhered to by this parish for many years.

All volunteers who work with children in Rathmichael Parish must be interviewed, Garda vetted and trained according to the Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children.

We have a Safeguarding Trust Panel in Rathmichael Parish and they oversee all aspects of the Code of Good Practice to ensure we remain compliant in all our parish activities. It is recommended that panel members serve for a period of 3-5 years but in the case of one or two of our members this has been well exceeded.

We are therefore looking for volunteers to join the Safeguarding Trust Panel. If you are interested please let us know and we will fill you in on what is involved.

New panel members will be Garda Vetted and trained by a member of the Church of Ireland Safe Guarding Trust training panel.

The Panel members in this parish currently are The Rev'd Terry Lilburn, Mark Thornburgh, Anne Thompson and Laura Mahon.

If you would consider joining the panel please contact

Mark Thornburgh @ 086 383 1655

email : rjmthornburgh@gmail.com

## PLEASE REMEMBER

As we go through this very stressful time please remember those people known to us and those from our parish family who are in hospital, having treatment and/or waiting for medical appointments.

We also remember those who have been bereaved and who are having to deal with saying goodbye to their loved ones in very difficult circumstances at this time.

*Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.*

*Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. Amen*

Let us also pray for the doctors, nurses and other front line workers who give so much of themselves on behalf of their patients.

*Father, we bring before You the doctors, nurses, medical technicians, first responders and all other healthcare professionals, whom You have called for the purpose of healing and comforting the sick. We thank You for the skills you have given them, which enable them to bring hope, healing, and wholeness to those in their care.*

*Carry their burdens and walk with them every day.*

*Amen.*

We have a group of volunteers who have very kindly offered to shop/pick up prescriptions/walk the dog, for people who are compromised or who are cocooned.



Should anyone require assistance the first call is to me, Anne Thompson @ 086 893 7067, and I will gladly pair you up with a volunteer.

Thank you to these helpers for their help. It is greatly appreciated

In the meantime everyone **Stay Safe and Stay well and God bless.**

## THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB

The book we are reading for May is "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins

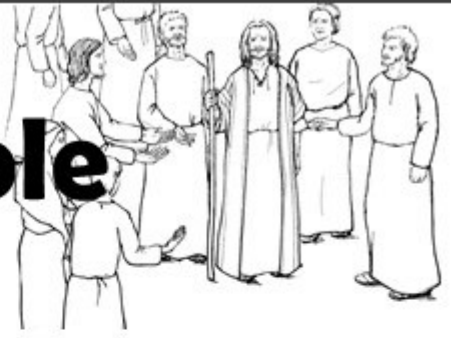
Due to the uncertainty arising from the Covid-19 Virus no venue has been decided for the May meeting.

Please do continue to keep in touch and up to date using the Book Club's WhatsApp.

For those with time on their hands - why not fill in a few minutes and do the Books of the Bible Word Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Books of the Bible Word Search



GENESIS

JOSHUA

CHRONICLES

EXODUS

JUDGES

EZRA

LEVITICUS

OBADIAH

ECCLESIASTES

NUMBERS

SAMUEL

JEREMIAH

DEUTERONOMY

ISAIAH

LAMENTATIONS

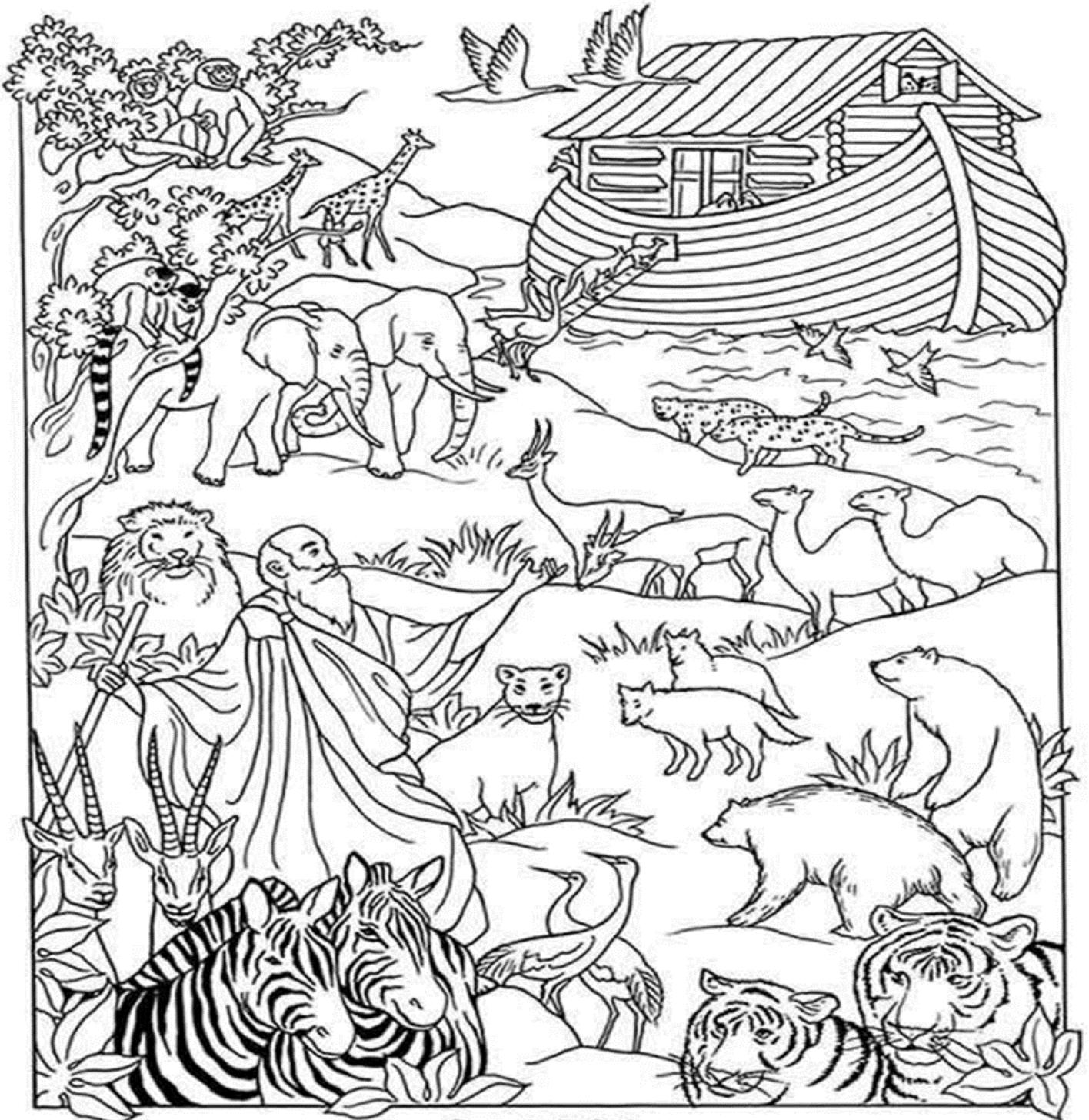




# Sunday Club

Hi boys and girls, you might like to watch the video of the story of Noah's Ark on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/ieu01DKnGC4> and then colour in the picture.

All the best, Debbie



**Genesis 7: 8-9**

Every beast, all the cattle, every creeping thing, every fowl, every bird went to Noah and into the ark, two by two, as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut them in.