

DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



This Advent, we embark yet again on another year. The arrival of Advent reminds that we have both a civil year and a religious year. It is a time in which the gates of salvation are opened for us anew and we see a long row of Sundays and Feast Days ahead of us and at the very forefront, the joyous Christmas festival – a festival which unites heaven and earth in one holy bond.

These coming weeks are a time in which it is appropriate to ask God once again for his help – help to put behind the old and bring in the new, that our hearts may be new, our lives new, our thoughts and hopes new. New – or certainly renewed.

We ask God for this help because it is also a season for us to remind ourselves that we, of ourselves, can do nothing. It is by the grace of God at work in us that all fruitful work happens.

And we will have many opportunities to gather together in some fruitful work over the Advent period, as you will see from our December schedule set out on the following page.

It is no mere coincidence that we celebrate the great event that is the Incarnation of Christ, the light of the world, on some of the darkest days of the year as the days become shorter and darker. In the dark days of late December, as Christians we celebrate the light that came into the world two thousand years ago – and will come in person again. May we celebrate that light with renewed hearts, renewed lives and renewed thoughts and hopes later this month. And in the meantime I look forward to the many opportunities we will have for worship and fellowship before then and to hopefully see you in person.

God bless,

Sean





Christmas at Rathmichael

Saturday 3rd December

10am-12pm • Christmas Food Fair

Saturday 10th December

2-4pm • “Christmas Unwrapped” Nativity Trail

Sunday 11th December

11am • Rededication Service

7pm • Blue Christmas

Sunday 18th December

11am • Sunday Club Christmas Party

4pm • Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 24th December

4pm • Community Carols

11:30 pm • The First Communion of Christmas

Sunday 25th December

9:30am • Holy Communion

11am • Christmas Family Service



Rathmichael
Parish Church

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

SERVICE	08.30 HRS	11.00 HRS	19.00 HRS	LECTORS
<p>The FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT Purple 18th DECEMBER 2022</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION Psalm 80:1-8,18-20 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25</p>	<p>16.00 HRS SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS</p>	Dougie Grey
<p>CHRISTMAS DAY White 25th DECEMBER 2022</p>	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE		
<p>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus White 1st JANUARY 2023</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION Psalm 8 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21</p>	EVENING PRAYER	Ros Cox
<p>The FIRST SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY - THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD White 8th JANUARY 2023</p>	H.C.	<p>MORNING PRAYER Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17 Please join us for coffee after the service</p>	HOLY COMMUNION	Marian Conboy
<p>The SECOND SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 15th JANUARY 2023</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION Psalm 40: 1-12 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 29-42</p>		
<p>The THIRD SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 22nd JANUARY 2023</p>	H.C.	<p>FAMILY SERVICE Please join us for coffee after the service</p>	HOLY COMMUNION	
<p>The FOURTH SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 29th JANUARY 2023</p>	H.C.	<p>HOLY COMMUNION with HOLY BAPTISM Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12</p>	EVENING PRAYER	
<p>The PRESENTATION of CHRIST in the TEMPLE White 2nd February 2023</p>		<p>MORNING PRAYER Psalm 24: 1-10 Malachi 3: 1-5 Luke 2: 22-40 Please join us for coffee after the service</p>	CANDLEMAS SERVICE	

RATHMICHAEL PARISH SUNDAY CLUB - LOOKING BACK - ANNOUNCEMENTS

In November, we concluded our exploration of early stories from the Old Testament by looking at the lives of twin brothers, Jacob and Esau. Then, beginning our Advent adventure early, we ventured into the New Testament, learning that an angel announced, to Zechariah's absolute amazement, that his wife Elizabeth would give birth to a son who would bring an important message. He was called to prepare people's hearts for the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Centuries beforehand, the prophet Malachi had spoken of this special messenger. Even though Zechariah knew about this prophecy, he got quite the shock when he was given the news that this person was to be *his* son. In due course John, known to us as John the Baptist, was born. The next big announcement we learnt about was from the angel, Gabriel. He appeared to Mary and revealed God's plan that she would have a baby called Jesus. He would fulfil the prophecies made by Isaiah long ago. He would be both a king, and a suffering servant who would redeem all who trusted in Him. Born just like any other baby, this was God Himself arriving amongst His people, to live alongside them, and ultimately, to rescue them.

LOOKING FORWARD - EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heading into December we anticipate Christ's coming with an air of excitement. We will encounter shepherds looking after sheep on the hills outside Bethlehem who are startled by an angel bearing good news of joy for all people. Before long a choir of angels arrive singing praises to God for His wonderful gift. Intrigued, the shepherds determine to set off and see the Saviour of the world. We will learn of Simeon, a man who loved God and who longed for the Messiah's coming, being overjoyed as he takes the young child Jesus in his arms. He prays over Him in gratitude to God because He has seen the One who will be a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of God's people Israel. He is thrilled that God's Salvation has arrived.



Sunday Club Special - **Christmas Party**

Don't miss the **Sunday Club Christmas Party** on Sunday 18th December. To be held in the hall during the 11am service, this is Jesus' Birthday Party! More information to follow.

<u>Date</u>	<u>What's on?</u>
4 th December	Sunday Club
11 th December	Sunday Club
18 th December	Sunday Club Special Christmas Party
25 th December	Christmas Family Service

Fun

SUNDAY CLUB SPECIAL

CHRISTMAS PARTY

LET'S CELEBRATE!

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

DURING 11AM SERVICE

Games

Craft

Treats

CHRISTMAS FAMILY CAROL SINGING

On **Christmas Eve at 4 pm** we will be holding an informal carol service, which will be in the church grounds (weather permitting).

This is an ideal activity for families looking for a distraction for their little ones from the hype of Christmas Eve. All are welcome at all of our December services and events and we look forward to welcoming you.



Christmas Unwrapped – Rathmichael Nativity Trail brings Christmas story to life

(The United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough (Church of Ireland))



Most of the cast of actors of Rathmichael's Christmas Unwrapped: Nativity Trail with Cherith Hanily (left) and the Revd Sean Hanily (right).

Talented and imaginative parishioners of Rathmichael brought the Christmas story to life in the grounds of their church on Saturday afternoon (December 10). Despite freezing weather, they welcomed almost 200 people to the 'Christmas Unwrapped: Nativity Trail'.

The trail brought people through the whole story of Christmas, starting with Eve and the Prophets and continuing to the Angel Gabriel, the Inn Keepers, the Shepherds, the Three Wise Men, King Herod to the scene of the Nativity.

'Trailing' has become popular amongst churches as a way to engage children and families since Covid arrived. In Rathmichael they have enjoyed running trails over the last couple of years and with such positive responses to these, they decided to think about how we would approach one this Christmas that used the full space available – the church grounds as well as the church and its buildings.

"Around the same time, we were planning our Christmas services and events we wondered how we could approach them in a fresh, creative way so as to capture the wondrous and amazing message of the First Christmas, particularly for the younger members of our congregation," explained Cherith Hanily who coordinated the trail. "The idea of our 'Christmas Unwrapped: Nativity Trail' began as we merged the idea of a trail and the familiar lessons read at our traditional Carol Service."

"We constructed a trail to explain the Christmas story, with talented parishioners acting as characters from the Bible at each stop, interacting with participants to bring the story to life. The trail covered the grounds and church, breaking the story into memorable chunks as the children gathered stickers to complete their Nativity Passports. The trail concluded with a chance for families to enjoy refreshments together and partake in Nativity themed games and crafts before concluding with a choice of Christmas book to take away," she said.

The Rector, the Revd Sean Hanily added that they were delighted with the response. "It was wonderful to welcome so many people and we were encouraged that people of all ages enjoyed engaging with the Christmas story in a new and captivating way," he said.



Eve and the snake in the Garden of Eden.



The Three Wise Men



The Angel and her helpers



The inn keepers and their assistant



The chilly prophets and their helpers

CONFIRMATION 2023

Confirmation Classes will be starting during the latter part of January.

Please contact the rector if you are in First Year in school and are interested

in taking part. Tel: (01) 282 2803 or email: rector@rathmichaelparish.org



COMMUNITY LANTERN WALK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17TH

@ 4.30 LANTERN MAKING (LIMITED NO)

@5PM WALK STARTS

CELEBRATING THE
LIGHT OF CHRIST AT
CHRISTMAS



WALKING FROM CRINKEN CHURCH
THROUGH SHANGANAGH PARK

JOIN US FOR: WALK, CAROLS, HOT CHOCOLATE
& A LITTLE GIFT FOR EACH FAMILY

WEATHER PERMITTING

CHURCH ROTAS

CHURCH COFFEE

December 11th The Coulter Family



CHURCH FLOWERS

December 2nd & 9th Irene Coulter

16th 23rd & 30th Christmas

January 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th Margaret Nevin



CHURCH CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
4th Dec	Kate Desigar	Vivien Reid
11th Dec.	Shirley Farrell.	Vivien Reid
18th Dec.	Shirley Farrell.	Vicky O'Brien
8th Jan.	Debbie Duncan	Vicky O'Brien
15th Jan.	Valerie Grier.	Helen Darcy
22nd Jan	Valerie Grier.	Helen Darcy
29th Jan.	Emma Parker	

COFFEE AND CAKE



Coffee and cake takes place every Saturday morning from 11 am to 12 and is a lovely way to keep in touch with friends and parishioners.

If you are passing by Rathmichael church on a Saturday morning - please drop in - we would love to see you.

Our Food Stall and coffee Sale on the 3rd December was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came and supported it and to those who baked and supplied some delicious goodies. It was a very successful morning and all proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul - along with our annual appeal for them.

This was our final coffee morning for this year.

We wish all our visitors a Happy and Healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all on

Saturday 7th January 2023.

This is an invitation to anyone in the Shankill/ Rathmichael community to come along and join us.

Many thanks to Fiona Ashe and her dedicated team for organising and supplying the delicious scones, cakes, etc. for these mornings.

THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

This fund allows me to support parishioners who have, in one way or another, met with adversity or need.

The fund provides practical financial help, usually in small amounts, which simply says, "*the parish cares*".

I know that these gestures have been gratefully received and have made a huge difference throughout the year to individuals or families at times of crises.

The fund is administrated by myself, with an independent auditor, in a completely confidential manner.

Thank you to those who have generously contributed to it.

Sean

Rathmichael Parish Finance



As we approach Christmas 2022 on behalf of the Rathmichael Parish Select Vestry I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those of you who have so consistently during the past year, and throughout the Lockdowns, donated monies to the parish and the charities it supports.

These donations may have been by cash, cheque, bank transfer, Standing Order, the Envelope scheme or by Credit Card, all were gratefully received and much appreciated.

If you would like to donate by Bank Transfer or Standing Order please see the details on the following form.

All donations received are much appreciated.

Wishing you and your families
A Peaceful and Joyful Christmas
A Happy and Healthy 2023

Lily

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

RATHMICHAEL PARISH CHURCH
STANDING ORDER

To: The Manager

_____ **Bank**

Please charge to my/our Account and pay to AIB, Deansgrange, 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 (Delete as appropriate)

Until _____ (insert date or "until further notice")

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

Account Name:.....

Account No:.....

Sort Code:

BIC:

IBAN:



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are running our Annual Appeal and are hoping for the fantastic support that you, the parishioners, give us.

Donations can be given to John Bolton or sent to our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Lily Byrne marked SVP Appeal

Many thanks in anticipation of your kind support which is greatly appreciated by those who receive assistance

John Bolton 086 1698086

BANK DETAILS

**ACCOUNT NAME: RATHMICHAEL PARISH
IBAN: IE31 AIBK 9333 9240 1680 05**

RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

The Sponsored Walk took place in Carrigolligan Woods in October. As usual it was well attended and the PTA served very welcome refreshments. The weather stayed dry and the children enjoyed the freedom to run around in a safe environment.



Our Dress Up Day was also held and the staff joined in completely giving in to the jovial atmosphere of the day. The PTA again provided music and games for the children to dance to. We held a Pumpkin Art Competition and each class drew pictures which were displayed on notice boards in the concourse. Prizes were given to each class.



We have recommenced our 50c day for Fields of Life. The children bring in 50c on the first Wednesday of the month. This money goes to support Caleb and Mercy in Uganda for their education. Heidi O'Sullivan came to the school for Assembly to give a talk on this and bring it back to life for the school. Covid prevented so much of this personal attention which the children need.

We have also collected boxes for Team Hope. These were collected over midterm. The children get so excited decorating and filling these boxes for the needy children in Eastern Europe. It is good for the children to give back to the community as they get so much.

Susan Crammond, our 6th Class teacher, ran in the Dublin City Marathon. This is a great achievement. She is encouraging her pupils to run every day and they are working with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership and their Marathon Kids Programme. Her achievement will only help to encourage her pupils.



Our Football and Hockey Teams have also been doing really well.

Congratulations to the Boys' Hockey Team for an excellent 3 – 0 win over Kill O the Grange. They really played as a team, encouraging each other and passing the ball well.



Congratulations to the Football Team who had a well deserved win against METS on Wednesday in a friendly match.

The Girl's Hockey team also had a brilliant 3 -1 win over Glenageary/Killiney N.S in terrible weather conditions.





Saint Joseph's Shankill

Dedicated to Dementia Care

Why not volunteer with a difference?

Saint Joseph's Shankill is the largest home in Ireland solely dedicated to dementia care.



Join our amazing team of volunteers to make moments matter for people in our care.

Due to the nature of our work you must have received a COVID vaccine and you will be required to wear a surgical mask while volunteering.

To find out more contact Nicola: 01 2823000 / 087 1637363 / nicola.yau@sjog.ie.



THE CHURCH REVIEW

The subscription for the Church Review for 2022 of €40 is now due and should be paid to Ingrid Nelson in cash or by cheque payable to her and she would greatly appreciate prompt payment of subs.

Ingrid is 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 Ingrid (by 22nd December) if you wish to renew or take a new subscription.

Ingrid can be contacted at 0863770307 or email: ingridcnelson@gmail.com

CAROL SINGING

BEECHFIELD MANOR

NURSING HOME

MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 6.00 p.m.

Calling all Singers, come and join us on Monday in Nursing Home as we sing Carols.

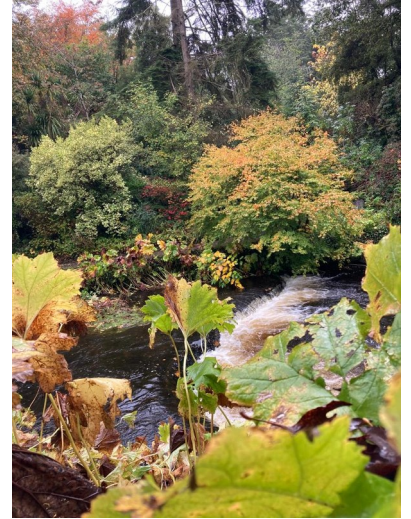
Everyone is welcome to join as and we would love to see as many people as possible.



RATHMICHAEL WALKERS

On the last Saturday of November seven of the Rathmichael Walkers met up at the Church for our outing. We had met up in October to do the same outing but it was cold and wet and miserable so we decided instead to have a coffee and a chat and try again the next month. This was the second attempt.

Saturday November 26th dawned grey and wet. Not a great omen, but seven intrepid Walkers decided to "go for it"! We drove to Ashford and parked at Mount Usher Gardens. The rain continued. We walked in the Gardens for an hour and a half. Leaves had fallen since the last time I had been down, but there were still some lingering patches of colour, mostly on the Japanese Maples. The huge old trees have a different type of beauty when in their winter skeletal garb, tall branches reaching for the skies.



Mount Usher Gardens, all 22 acres of it, in a very sheltered area on the River Vartry, has an amazing selection of mature trees, magnolias, azaleas, ericas, cornus, eucalyptus, acacias, palms, beech and very interesting looking evergreens from the antipodes. The map we had for reference gave us information on the numbered trees, giving the names, species, country of origin and date of planting in many cases.

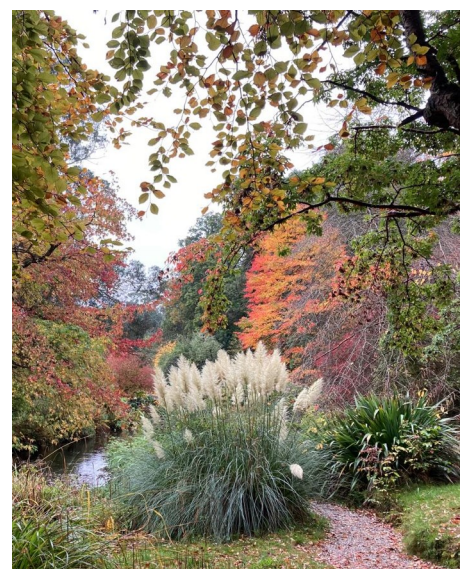
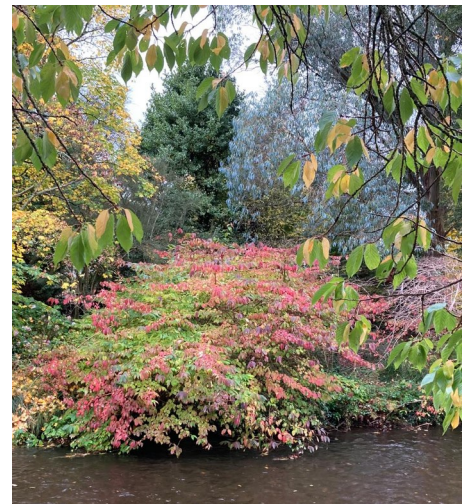
It is a most beautiful place to visit at any time of the year and November in the rain is possibly the worst time to choose. However, we were all quite happy with our morning's exercise. We enjoyed our "Forest Bathing" - although rain is not an essential part of this experience, it does lend an extra dimension! It is calming and relaxing to commune with nature in a slow stroll through the trees.

When we had walked to the South end of the Gardens, we crossed the river, which was in full spate, the weirs were magnificent. So we walked by the river to the North end, crossed another bridge and down to the exit point.

We had decided to go to the Chester Beatty for lunch. A very good choice as they have open log fires, it's warm and the soup and chowder were just the perfect recipe to warm us all up. So, despite the rain, the wet coats, umbrellas and shoes, we all enjoyed our outing to Mount Usher Gardens (in the November rain!)

We are doing some research for our next walk in January, all suggestions will be considered!

Helen (087 234 2689)



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, our 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. We 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).

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has committed money from its emergency funds to assist with the humanitarian response to the current crisis in Ukraine. Bishops' Appeal is partnering with Habitat for Humanity Ireland and Christian Aid, and encouraging parishes across the island to contribute to our response to help people seeking refuge.

Jenny Williams, Chief Executive of Habitat for Humanity Ireland, remarked: "UNHCR reports that over 500,000 people fled Ukraine into neighbouring and nearby countries from 24th February to 1st March. We have strong programmes in Poland, Hungary and Romania and our European office is in Slovakia so we are on the ground responding. "Habitat is meeting UNHCR daily and co-ordinates with governments to add value and ensure there isn't duplication of effort. Colleagues from Hungary and Romania spent the weekend at their borders. In Romania, the need was to provide additional heat for a camp – even more important given that there was more snow at the weekend and people were cold. More broadly our focus is on supporting the shelter needs of refugees, ensuring that more people can feel safe. We will support them for the long term.

Please take a little time to read more about the Appeal and what it does at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org. It really does look after the most marginalised in our world.

In Rathmichael Parish over Christmas we will have retiring collections for Bishops' Appeal at our Carol Service and on Christmas Day. Donations can also be sent to our Treasurer. The purple envelopes, will be available in the church but donations can be sent to our Treasurer, Lily Byrne marked Bishops' Appeal.

Thank you for your ongoing support which is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Bishops' Appeal,

Anne Thompson

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 2023.



ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Declaration Form for new Registered Vestry Members

If by 15th January 2023 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 2023.

_____ 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