



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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Opening hours for the Parish Office: 10.00am – 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

21st March 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 10.00pm. Suspended

Holy Hour in the Nursing Home chapel on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. Suspended.

Please for the **repose of the souls** of John Kellett (Cairn Court) and Anne Meehan (Foxbrook) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

The **Parish Office** will remain closed in these weeks. You may email or phone the office to book Masses, organise certs etc. Messages etc can be left in the letter box at the office.

Fr Gerry and Fr Yohanna will be available at all times for those who wish to see a priest.

On Friday night next 26th March, a **Lenten Holy Hour** will be streamed at 8.00pm using the usual link.

For the weeks of Lent, we will have **Eucharistic Adoration** from **2.00pm to 5.00pm every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.**

Please visit the church to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

Excerpt of homily of Archbishop Dermot Farrell for St Patrick's Day

The planned exit from the current severe restrictions is being watched by many citizens who expect their religious practice to be respected by the public authorities and not be subordinated to commercial interests. ...

From the perspective of the State, the right to public worship is protected by the Constitution of Ireland (Article 44). However, the number who are allowed to worship cannot be randomly determined as if were some mathematical formula. This is about people: the protection of people's health, and the fostering of people's wellbeing. While a balance must be struck, easing restrictions on worship has a better founded statutory claim than other activities which may be pressed by powerful commercial interests. Worship has a clear human priority over other activities that do not possess that priority of themselves.

In particular, the restriction on attendance at funerals to 10 people is harsh and unfair. Close family members are frequently denied the right to be present in Church at the funeral of their loved ones: at times, people who have been with the deceased for years. This is tolerable only in the most extreme circumstances, and for the shortest possible period.

As a matter of human dignity and fairness — but even more so as matter of wellbeing and the restoration of normality, I call on the public authorities to give assurance that the legitimate desire of people to gather responsibly and within reasonable guidelines to exercise their constitutional right to worship will be prioritised in the easing of restrictions.

21 Mar	Fifth Sunday of Lent	28 Mar	Palm Sunday
11.00am	Noel Duggan Breda & Denis Lane Dick & Chris Donnelly James Byrne & the deceased members of the family Jimmy Landy Noreen Hughes	11.00am	Raymond Murphy Thomas & Tommy Everard Vincent McGowan

Monday Dolores Cardiff
Wednesday Christy Toohey
Friday Gerard Shiels

Tuesday John McAnnally
Thursday Special Intention

National Synod

At the Spring General Meeting the Irish Bishops' Conference decided to hold a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years.

What is a Synod? The word “synod” evokes the image of “walking together on the way”.

For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the “navigation map” for the Church at particular times. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church.

Pope Francis emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways for every baptized person to fulfil the Church's mission of proclaiming to the world, God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

The bishops highlighted the **following areas** that will be reflected on before and during the synod.

Secularisation of Society. We are acutely aware of the huge challenges to the faith over the past fifty years from the rapid transformation and secularisation of society in Ireland bringing with it a major decline in practice of the faith and in the number of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

Shocking Revelations. Like so many others we are appalled by the findings in published Reports into institutional and clerical abuse; the recent shocking revelations about Mother and Baby homes in Ireland - north and south – have further reminded us of the deep trauma felt by so many in the Body of Christ and the need for inner healing and hope.

The need to promote peace-making and a culture of welcome. One hundred years on from the partition of Ireland we also recognise the need for ongoing peace-making, the building of trust and reconciliation, and for a culture of welcome and integration for migrants and the many newcomers who have arrived to live on this island.

Listening to the Cry for Transparency. We hear a cry for transparency, greater participation and accountability in the Church.

Discovering the Family as “Domestic Church”. We see the tremendous potential for the support and renewal of faith within the family. The restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic prompted a new discovery of the family as the “domestic Church”.

Connecting with Young People. We are alert to the need to connect with the energy and gifts of our young people, forming and enabling them to be missionaries to each other and inviting them to spread the Good News not only in Ireland but around the world that *Christ is Alive!*

Honouring the Contribution of Women. While many women are very engaged in Church life in Ireland, we acknowledge the critical need to honour the contribution of women, to hear their deep concerns, to formally recognise their roles and articulate new models of co-responsibility and leadership involving all lay people - women and men. We are also aware that many people have left Church behind and in some cases feel ignored, excluded or forgotten – we need to hear their voices also.

We envisage the next two years as a period of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a nationwide consultative conversation on this theme. This will allow individuals and parishes, religious orders and associations as well as groups, movements and organisations both within the Church and in Irish society at large, to share their insights into the Church in Ireland – past, present and future.

Next Steps

Next June, at the Summer General Meeting, bishops intend to establish a task group to plan and oversee the first steps along the synodal pathway.

We encourage reflection, study and research on the theme of synodality at parish, diocesan, regional and national level and we invite writers, theologians and lecturers to prepare papers for sharing and discussion in the initial two-year phase.

From 6th April next, an online page will be available on the Bishops' Conference website for the submission of ideas and suggestions.