



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

15th November 2020

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.

Standing Orders for October €3,654.16 Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

The Month of the Holy Souls

This year, the month of November, in which we traditionally **remember the dead** and pray for the bereaved, will be particularly poignant.

List of the Dead sheets are available at the back of the church. Completed lists can be left into the parish office, as soon as possible.

All those on the parish list of the dead are remembered at all the Masses during the month of November and on the first Friday of every month.

All Masses are suspended except for funerals and weddings, where only 25 people are permitted to attend. Baptisms are also cancelled. The church will remain open during the day for private prayer and we do encourage parishioners to call in to pray.

It is good to keep up the rhythm of our prayer in these days of anxiety and worry for so many.

The 11.00am Sunday Mass will be streamed and the link can be found on the parish website

www.ratoathparish.ie

Mass Intentions: During level 5 of the government framework for living with Covid 19, the intentions that were schedules for the next number of Sundays will now be offered at the 11.00am streamed Mass, unless advised otherwise by families.

Distribution of Parish Envelopes

In early December the envelopes for 2021 will be distributed. We are most grateful to all who distribute the envelopes for us, as they are an important source of income for the parish. We are looking for a few more people who might be willing to give up an hour of their time to help with the distribution of envelopes for us. If you can help us, would you please ring the parish office (01-8256207) and leave your name with Maureen.

There is an **online donation facility** on the Parish Website – www.ratoathparish.ie

15 Nov	Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	22 Nov	Feast of Christ the King
11.00am	Gerry Crehan (Months Memory) John & Mary O'Brien Jack & Maggie Donnelly Mary White Phil & Noel Shanley Derek Walker & the deceased members of the Walker and Kenny families Peggy Farrell All the deceased members of the Silver Stream Health Care Group	11.00am	Dick Donnelly (Months Memory) Irene O'Leary (Months Memory) Bernard & Michael McIntyre Tom & Rosemary Wallace Attracta & Colm Donnelly

Fr Gerry will offer Masses in private for the intentions listed here.

Thursday Billy & Kathleen Lynch & the deceased members of the family

Excerpt from Archbishop Eamon Martin on making the case for the re-opening of churches for Mass and the Sacraments.

The Church has a vital role to play in sustaining hope during these difficult times. We have been encouraging our people to persevere and not to lose heart. We know that faith and prayer can be a huge support in difficult times....

The gospel is our “roadmap” and source of strength for getting us through this pandemic – it encourages us to practise self-denial; it challenges us to show compassion for the isolation and anxiety of others; it makes us thankful for the blessings of health facilities, clean water, warmth and clothing, and prompts us to be generous towards those in the world who do not even have the basic necessities to withstand the spread of coronavirus.

As people of faith we must nurture our spiritual health.

In making the case for public worship at all stages of lockdown we are not claiming special privilege over other places – like gyms, restaurants or sport.

We are simply stating the fact that, for Christians, gathering to worship God is not an optional extra – it is a profound expression of who we are as individual spiritual beings and as Church. The communal celebration of the Mass and the sacraments is an essential source of nourishment and well-being which is not only positive for individuals, but it also healthy for community resilience and for social cohesion.

Cardinal Sarah expressed it powerfully when he wrote recently that we cannot live, we cannot be Christian without the Word of the Lord, without the banquet of the Eucharist, without the Christian community, without the house of the Lord, which is our home, without the Lord’s Day.

No virtual gathering over the webcam can replace the joy and consolation that comes when the Church – as a family of families- is able to physically meet to welcome Christ our Saviour.

“A very credible witness of holiness and commitment is expected of those who live in Christ”

from a Latin American bishops document

“The period we are living through is a chance not to be missed for building a more just, more inclusive Europe. If that were to lose sight...of the awareness that every human being is part of a social fabric, a community, Europe would be nothing more than a set of sterile bureaucratic processes” and that the church will remain “in the front line of the long and arduous recovery process for the effects of the pandemic”

from the address of Cardinal Parolin to Commission of the Bishops Conference of the European Union

Prayer is like the oxygen of life. Prayer is to draw upon us the presence of the Holy Spirit who always carries us forward.

The teaching of the Gospel is clear: we must always pray, even when everything seems in vain, when God appears deaf and dumb and we seem to waste time. Even if the sky darkens, the Christian does not stop praying. His prayer goes hand in hand with faith. And faith, in so many days of our life, may seem an illusion, a sterile effort. There are dark moments in our life and in those moments faith seems an illusion.

But practicing prayer also means accepting this effort. “Father, I go to pray and I feel nothing... I feel like this, with a dry heart, with a dry heart”. But we have to go on, with this fatigue of the bad moments, of the moments that we feel nothing.

In these nights of faith, those who pray are never alone. In fact, Jesus is not only a witness and teacher of prayer, he is more. He welcomes us *in his prayer*, so that we can pray in him and through him. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason that the Gospel invites us to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. St. John reports these words of the Lord: "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son".

from the audience of Pope Francis on Wednesday last held behind closed doors