



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

☎ 01-8256207 | ✉ ratoathparish@gmail.com | 💻 www.ratoathparish.ie

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

4th April 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.

In **Level 5 restrictions** public worship will not take place. The 11.00am Mass on Sundays will be streamed. The link can be found on the parish website www.ratoathparish.ie.

The week morning Masses (Monday to Friday) at 9.45am will also be streamed.

On the weekdays, the church will remain closed until after the morning Mass and will be open at approximately 10.15am for private prayer during the day.

10 mourners are permitted at funerals but this will increase to 25 mourners on 26th April

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.

This Sunday (Easter Sunday) is a **blue offering** day. We are most grateful to all our parishioners who have left in envelopes and donations to the parish office at this time and we thank you for your continued support and generosity. €930 was lodged from the white envelopes on 29th March.

Thanks to all who returned the **completed CHY4 forms** to the parish office. If you have not done so, we would be grateful if you could complete the form and return it to the office.

Eucharistic Adoration will take place **every Friday** after the morning Mass until 6.00pm.

We will review this when we resume public worship in the church

You can leave your **Trocaire box** at the door of the parish office or if you are using the Trocaire envelope, you can leave your contribution in the letter box at the office. Please **do not** leave your contribution at the back of the church.

Meath Alzheimer Cafés are now being held online. The next Virtual Café will take place at 11:00 am on Wednesday 7th April. The guest speaker is Dr Bernadette Rock, ASI Policy and Research Manager, who will speak about "Research Highlights from the ASI". All families/carers and loved ones living with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia are welcome to join us. If you wish to take part please email: meathvirtualcafe@alzheimer.ie and you will receive an invitation to attend

Meath Archaeological and Historical Society lecture: Jim O'Leary, an economist, writer and researcher from Kilmessan, will give an online lecture entitled "The Robinstown Affair, A War of Independence Story." The lecture will be by Zoom on Wednesday 7th April starting at 7:30 pm.

Please see www.mahs.ie to register

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| 4 April | Easter Sunday | 11 April | Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) |
| 11.00am | Mass offered for the intentions of the People of the Parish | 11.00am | Pat Dennehy (Month's Memory) Michael Loughnane Con & baby Laoise Buckley Edward & Ray McAndrew Mary & Owen Fitzsimons Noel Eiffe and the deceased members of the Brunton family Wardie O'Sullivan Mary McKenna |

Monday Michael O'Neill

Wednesday

Bill Eiffe

An Easter Blessing

May the Lord bless you this Easter time:
Bless you with faith, guard you in doubt;
Bless you with hope, uplift you in despair;
Bless you with love, keep you from fear;
Bless you with peace, calm you in trouble;
Bless you with mercy, help up to forgive;
Bless you with joy, comfort you in sorrow;
So your heart may rejoice in Him who is Risen. Amen

Reflection for Easter Sunday

from Intercom

Today we celebrate the highpoint of the Christian calendar, Easter. The gospel tells us that Mary Magdalene is the first to witness to the resurrection, she is first to bring the Good News to others, the first preacher of the resurrection.

“It was still dark...” when Mary went to the tomb but it was also the “first day of the week”, a new beginning, like the first warm day of Spring. We can all recall situations in our lives which seemed so dark, when we left that there was no light at the end of the tunnel.

But the Easter story shows us that transformation is always possible. There comes a point during dark times that we realise something has changed, the stone has rolled away.

Let the linen wrappings in this text today represent all that keeps us from being free, all that keeps us captive, emotionally, physically, spiritually, in our broken relationships and struggling communities.

As we continue to deal with the effects of the Covid 19 crisis, many people are longing for this situation to ease, to lift. The Easter gospel shows us that even the most difficult of our situations can bring transformation.

A question we can ask today, is where have we seen the Risen Christ during this crisis?

In the frontline workers, in good neighbours and friends.

Where are we being called to share Easter joy with others?

A Word of Thanks, this Easter

Having celebrated another Holy Week behind closed doors, the absence of the public celebrations of the Sacraments pains us deeply.

But I do want to express my thanks to all who made it possible to stream the Holy Week celebrations – Eamonn for his attention to the actual streaming of the ceremonies; Mary our organists; our readers; cantors; altar servers and the altar society who prepared the altar area for the various ceremonies ending up with the beautiful Easter garden in front of the altar.

We wish all our parishioners the joy and hope that the risen Christ brings. Happy Easter.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19.

Professional staff is available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

Irish Hospice Foundation – **Bereavement Support Line** 1800 80 70 77 Mon – Fri 10 am to 1pm.

Irish Hospice Foundation are running #WeReflect campaign to highlight the service and are hoping to reach those who need care in grief the most right now. The Line is for anyone grieving in these exceptional times; they may be grieving a COVID-19 death, a death from other causes or maybe a previous loss is feeling particularly difficult right now. We are here to listen and support those struggling with loss. Visit <https://hospicefoundation.ie/our-supports-services/bereavement-loss-hub/bereavement-support-line-old/bereavement-support-line-promotional-assets>