



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

25th July 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

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

We welcome Tom Creagh, Grace Moore, Darcy Brien, Ayla Jackson, Ella Gillen, Emily O'Halloran and Cadhla O'Riordan into the Christian community. They were **baptised** recently in three separate ceremonies.

Regarding baptisms, Bishop Deenihan said in his recent statement that “the celebration of baptism will proceed in this diocese subject to the pastoral judgment of the local clergy, minimum numbers and public health precautions”.

€2,150 lodged into the Development Fund Account (**white envelopes**) on 20th July.

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Rathbeggan NS now enrolling for Sept 2021.

Email office@rathbeggans.ie or contact via our website www.rathbeggans.ie

This Sunday 25th July is the First World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

Pope Francis has reminded us to value the many gifts of our grandparents and elderly and, in recognition of their role, the Holy Father has now instituted an annual World Day into the Church calendar to be celebrated on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus. It will be celebrated for the first time this year on Sunday 25th July.

Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.

Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them!

They are a source of enrichment for families, for the church and for all society. Support them!

As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of the Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasures.

Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and roles of grandparents.

May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love.

Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years which you give them.

Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen

25 July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Aug	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.00pm	Mary & Joseph Elliott Patsy, Rita & Agnes McCabe	7.00pm	
9.00am	Peg, Nan & Harry Everard	9.00am	
11.00am	Gail Geoghegan	11.00am	Conor Fogarty Mollie & Frank Maher
12.15pm		12.15pm	Jackie O'Sullivan Jimmy Ralph

Monday John Curran

Wednesday Willie Kelly

Friday Anne Sheerin & John Kellett

Tuesday Fr John Cogan

Thursday Special Intention & Jimmy Kernery

Excerpt of the Message of Pope Francis for the World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers; dear elderly friends,

“I am with you always”: this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends.

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved one, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who feel isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic...

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”.

These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones.

Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don’t think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can’t even leave the residence where I live? Isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn’t my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?”

It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.....

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream *dreams*, and your young men will have visions” . The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now...

Finally, *prayer*. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.” He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need. Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession