



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

14th February 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 pray for the **repose of the soul** of Gerry Lynch (Ballymore) and Olive Brennan (Streamstown) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

Standing Orders for January €3,820.58

Next 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.

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.

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.

At level 5, baptisms may not take place. Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.

The Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you are already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit myself to be separated from you.

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

14 Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	21 Feb	First Sunday of Lent
11.00am	Florence O'Neill (Month's Memory) Michael & Elizabeth Kavanagh Edward & Mary Rafferty David Nelson Leo Digan Mary & Peter Farrell Annie Lynch Sandra Geraghty	11.00am	Monique Sevestre (Month's Memory) Barbara Dyer (Month's Memory) & her husband Leslie Claire Butler Colm Donnelly Jim & Peter Brady Cepta & Russell McNabb Renata Munnelly

Monday Kathleen, Eugene & Danny O'Sullivan & the deceased members of the family

Tuesday Maureen Glynn & Special Intention

Thursday Bill Mills & Souls in Purgatory

Lent begins on Wednesday.

Ashes will be blessed at the morning Mass on Ash Wednesday.

The ashes will be available for parishioners, in sachets. You are asked to take a sachet home with you and sprinkle the family with the ashes and read the prayer that will be available for collection along with the ashes.

In the readings for Ash Wednesday there is a great consciousness of our sinfulness, as we pray “have mercy on us, O Lord for we have sinned”.

There is also a sense that the time to repent and turn back to God is now. The gospel tells us how to approach that renewal in our lives. It puts before us the remedy of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three strands of Lenten observance are as ancient as Christianity itself.

While the churches are still closed for public worship, it is still possible to renew our Christian lives in this season – we can still pray, fast and do works of mercy.

It is important to remember although we cannot attend Mass and other public worship, we are still asked to live a life of service and to witness to Christ in our daily lives, to be reconciled with God and neighbour.

Or to put it another way, it is undeniable that the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life but the Eucharist is not the only possibility that the Christian has to experience the mystery of God and to meet the Lord Jesus.

Service to others, living the faith is an effective way of expressing our faith, of reflecting a Church present in today’s world.

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.

Pope Francis writes “this year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity”.

Trocaire boxes are available at the back of the church.

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent.

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference.

This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Trócaire’s Lenten campaign for 2021 tells the stories of two families in South Sudan whose lives have been impacted by conflict. Awut and Ajak are shining examples of resilience, friendship and solidarity.

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

from Intercom

This Lent we hear not only about the enormous challenges they have faced, but also about how they support each other through these challenges. The leper in today’s gospel ignored the rule of social distancing as did Jesus. The law forbade any contact with lepers. Jesus was motivated by “go first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. There was no one more despised than the leper.

Jesus shows us the gospel mission: it is not about introducing a distant God to people. It is saying to people that God is more interested in you than you are in God.

If you show any sense of a response through trust and love, as the leper did (“of course I want to”) then the interest turns into a relationship that is life-giving. God is nearer than we think.

Our belief is anchored on the truth that “God loved us first”.