



# Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

21<sup>st</sup> 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 Gail Geoghegan (Jamestown Park) who died during the week. May she rest in peace.

This 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](http://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.

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.

**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.

21 Feb	First Sunday of Lent	28 Feb	Second Sunday of Lent
11.00am	Monique Sevestre (Month's Memory) Maureen Glynn (Month's Memory) Barbara Dyer (Month's Memory) & her husband Leslie Claire Butler Colm Donnelly Jim & Peter Brady Cepta & Russell McNabb Maureen Cooney Noel Phelan Cecilia Smith	11.00am	Patricia Malin Jack & Elizabeth Ryan Packie, Catherine & Francis O'Brien Noel, Teresa and baby Noel Scally Nina Madden

Monday	Special Intention
Tuesday	Maureen Byrne
Wednesday	Mary Eiffe
Thursday	Paddy & Nan Donnelly
Friday	Jack & Bridget Eiffe & the deceased members of the family

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people were afraid, isolated, alone and uncertain of what the future would bring. Humanity was adrift in what seemed like a desert moment.

However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you?

Lent is a time where people give up something, focus on getting fit, take a course, try to be better themselves in some way. And these can be good things but Lent is much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring- cleaning sort of time, an opportunity to ask, "what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make room for God?" "What changes am I being called to embrace?" Without change we cannot grow and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full.

The Gospel today is short. Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space. It is true that we may encounter our demons there, but we should not be afraid, for as the gospel today clearly says this is a Spirit led desert. God is with us. Let us embrace this wilderness.

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A number of people have asked for the words of the poem by the Cuban composer, Alexis Valdés called "**Esperanza**" (**Hope**) quoted by Fr Gerry on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

When the storm passes and the roads are tamed,  
and we are the survivors of a collective shipwreck.

With a weeping heart and a blessed destiny  
we will feel happy just for being alive.

And we will hug the first stranger  
and praise the luck of not having lost a friend.

And then we'll remember everything we lost  
And all at once we will learn all we had not learned before

We will no longer be envious because we have all suffered  
We will no longer be lazy and will be more compassionate

What belongs to all will be worth more than that never achieved  
We will be more generous and much more committed

We will understand how fragile it means to be alive.  
We will sweat empathy for who is and who has left.

We will miss the old man asking for a dollar in the market  
we didn't know his name although he was next to us

And perhaps the poor old man was your God in disguise.  
You never asked for his name because you were in a hurry.

And everything will be a miracle and everything will be legacy.  
And life will be respected, the life we have won.

When the storm passes, I ask God, full of sadness  
to return us to be better as he had dreamed we would be.