



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

11th December 2022

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm

Please pray for the **repose of the soul** of Myles O'Dwyer (The Old Mill) who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available from the Parish Office.

The **St. Vincent de Paul Annual Church Gate Collection** will take place this weekend. We would like to thank you for your generosity to this worthy cause.

“We are seeking donations to help families pay for food, heat their homes and ensure their children get a decent Christmas.”

Confessions for Christmas

Confessions will be held on Saturday 17th December from 11.30am to 12.30pm and on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December after the 9.45am Morning Mass.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 4.00pm; 6.00pm and 8.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am; 11.00am and 12.15pm

11 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent	18 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Margaret Ward Owen Murray & Murray family	7.00pm	John & Margaret Donnelly Ella Smyth Maura McLoughlin Paddy, Tinny, Raymond & Declan Brennan & the deceased members of the family
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Ben & Vonnie Cullen Richard King & Bridget Wall	11.00am	Jim Murphy (Month's Memory) Tom McGoldrick Bridget & Joseph Gallagher Martin Kerrigan Claire & Tom Kinsella
12.15pm	Frank Goodman Angela Walsh Teresa Joyce Bobby Browne	12.15pm	Joe Mannering (Month's Memory) Nancy Ralph (Month's Memory) Margaret & Thomas Campbell & the deceased members of the family Pat Naughton Maura O'Reilly Aubrey & Patrick McAuley & the deceased members of the McAuley & Carthy families Ian, Eddie & Patricia Smith

Monday The deceased members of the Dunne, Molloy, Fagan and Mahon families
Tuesday Claire Finnegan and Marie Kelly

Pope Francis: We must rediscover the true richness of Christmas

Addressing the delegations from Sutrio, Rosello and Guatemala, who have gifted this year's Christmas tree and nativity scenes in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis draws attention to the true meaning of Christmas.

"To meet God we must reach Him where he is; we need to lower ourselves, to make ourselves small", like Jesus did by coming to birth in a stable, Pope Francis said last Saturday, as he welcomed three delegations from the Italian villages of Sutrio, in Northern Italy, and Rosello, in the region of Abruzzo, and from Guatemala, who gifted the Vatican with this year's Christmas tree and two nativity scenes.

"The tree, with its lights", he said, "reminds us of Jesus who comes to illuminate our darkness, our existence often locked up in the shadow of sin, fear and pain". But it also suggests the idea that, like trees we need roots, "solid foundations" to remain firm, grow and resist the winds of life. It is therefore important to cherish the roots, in life as in faith", Pope Francis stressed.

He then reflected on the significance of the crib, which "speaks to us of the birth of the Son of God who became Man to be close to each one of us".

In its genuine poverty, the Pope said, the nativity scene helps us to rediscover "the true richness of Christmas", a different Christmas "from the consumerist and commercial one".

It helps us "to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that surround him".

The Pope therefore encouraged those present to "rediscover the surprise and amazement of littleness through the nativity scene, the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendour of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable".

Blessing for a Christmas Crib (*you can pray this blessing at your crib at home*).

O God, out of love for us you sent your dearly beloved Son to become human.

You willed that he be born in a humble stable in order to give us an example of humility.

We pray you now to bless this crib, a representation of the scene of his birth; may it draw us close to him.

By imitating his humility may we become a worthy dwelling place for his rebirth, Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

The Pope's Intention for December: *for volunteer not-for-profit organisations*

"We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation."

The **Confirmation ceremonies** on 10th February next year will be at 10.30am; 12.30pm and 3.00pm

An invitation to **young adults** (18-40 years) to prepare for the joys of Christmas with a prayerful **retreat** at Dalgan Park, Navan. 16th to 18th December Friday evening - Sunday after lunch).

Cost: Donation (full board, own room). Contact: Sr. Úna 090 6481666 or Michael 086 2453123.

Email: youthretreats@gmail.com

A **new Mothers prayer meeting** is happening on Mondays at 11am. Founded by a grandmother and her sister in 1995, there are now thousands of groups around the world. Mothers meet weekly to pray for their children. If you'd like to join contact Claire Marie, 0857758519

www.mothersprayers.org/index.php/en/

Santa visits Ratoath GAA Club this Sunday 11th December from 1.00pm to 6.00pm.

Free Admission. All donations to LauraLynn. Goodies bags and photo with Santa for all children.

Face painting, mulled wine and mince pies.