



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

7th May 2023

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm

We welcome Abbie Mendes, Patrick O'Brien, Hannah Hayes, Thomas Fletcher-Daly and Holly Larkin into the Christian community. They were **baptised** recently.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul** of Olivia Kinsella (Leigh Valley) and Aidan Smith, brother of Shelia Smith (Bodeen) and Dermot Browne (Ashbourne) brother of Joey Browne (St Olivers) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

There will be no 9.45am Mass from Monday to Wednesday this week.

White Envelope Collection (Development Fund) €2,767.57 and **Blue Envelopes** €1,330.00
Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Diocese of Meath: **Vacancy for Director of Faith Formation**. 5 year fixed term contract.
Full details of the vacancy can be found on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofmeath.ie, clicking on the tab job vacancy where terms and conditions and application forms relating to the role can also be accessed. Closing date for applications will be 5.00pm on Friday 26th May 2023

First Communion Ceremonies:

Congratulations to all the boys and girls of Second Class in Ratoath Junior National School who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday

We are most grateful to all the teachers and those in the school community who have assisted, supported and prepared the children for their First Holy Communion. Thanks too to all the parents who have journeyed with the boys and girls this year and who have come to the “Do This in Memory of Me” Masses that were held throughout the year.

The First Holy Communion ceremonies for St Paul’s National School will take place this Saturday 13th May and for Rathbeggan National School on 20th May.

Cemetery Sunday takes place this year on **Sunday 28th May** beginning with prayers for the dead in the church at 3.00pm followed by rosary and blessing of the graves. This is an opportunity for parishioners to tend their family plots and we encourage all to ready their plots so that the cemetery can look its very best to honour our beloved dead.

7 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	14 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
7.00pm	Michael Lagan (Month’s Memory)	7.00pm	Alice Redmond (Month’s Memory) Yvonne Saul Fagan Joe McGrath
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	John Mulhern James & Annie O’Brien Liam Lynch Bridget & Michael McIntyre & the deceased members of the family	11.00am	Mary Flinter December members of the Byrne Family (Cabinhill)
12.15pm	Julia Cassidy (Month’s Memory) Bernie Walsh (Month’s Memory) Lorraine Eiffe	12.15pm	Paul Doran (Month’s Memory)

Saturday

First Communion Ceremonies at 10.00am and 11.30pm and 1.00pm for St Paul’s National School

From the Homily of Pope Francis in Budapest last Sunday

Brothers and sisters, “going forth” means that we, like Jesus, must become open doors. How sad and painful it is to see closed doors. The closed doors of our selfishness with regard to others; the closed doors of our individualism amid a society of growing isolation; the closed doors of our indifference towards the underprivileged and those who suffer; the doors we close towards those who are foreign or unlike us, towards migrants or the poor.

Closed doors also within our ecclesial communities: doors closed to other people, closed to the world, closed to those who are “irregular”, closed to those who long for God’s forgiveness.

Please, brothers and sisters, let us open those doors! Let us try to be – in our words, deeds and daily activities – like Jesus, an open door: a door that is never shut in anyone’s face, a door that enables everyone to enter and experience the beauty of the Lord’s love and forgiveness.

From the address of Pope Francis in his meeting with young people in Hungary

We can look too at Jesus’ first encounter with those who were to become his disciples. Two of them, sent to him by John the Baptist, begin to follow Jesus. The Lord turns to them and asks a single question: “What are you looking for?”

I too ask each of you a question; answer it quietly in your hearts. My question is: “What is it that you seek? What are you looking for in life? What do you seek in your heart?” Silently, let each of us answer within ourselves. What do I seek?

Jesus does not preach at them, but walks with them, and with each of us. Jesus walks closely by our side. He does not want his disciples to be like schoolchildren who merely repeat lessons learned, but young people who are free and press ahead, fellow travellers of a God who listens to their needs and is attentive to their dreams.

Then, some time later, two of his young disciples blunder – his disciples often blunder! – and they ask Jesus the wrong thing, namely, to sit at his right and his left when he becomes king, because they wanted to climb higher. It is worth noting that Jesus does not rebuke them for their audacity.

He does not say: “How dare you? Stop dreaming of such things!” No, Jesus does not shatter their ambitions, but corrects them about the right way to achieve them. He accepts their desire for greatness, which is good, but he insists on one thing that we too must always remember: it is not by stepping upon others that we become great, but by stooping to help them.

We do not achieve greatness at the expense of others, but rather by serving them.

As you see, dear friends, Jesus wants us to accomplish great things. He doesn’t want us to be lazy “couch potatoes”; he doesn’t want us to be quiet and timid; instead, he wants us to be alive, active, ready to take charge and make history. He never disparages our expectations but, on the contrary, raises the bar of our desires. Jesus would agree with a proverb of yours, which I hope I pronounce well: *Aki mer az nyer* [Those who dare, win the prize].

Thought for the Day

There is a song our parish choir sometimes sings, “you are centre O Lord, of my life’.

The church is not the centre of our lives; Jesus is centre of our lives, and the church exists to create a space for Jesus to be the centre of our lives.

He is present to us in and through the community of believers, in and through his word, the Scripture of the Church in and through the sacraments of the church, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

It is the Spirit at work in the Church and beyond the church who brings Jesus to us so that become the centre of our lives.

from Martin Hogan

reflections on the gospel of Matthew

We are grateful to all who have returned their **CHY4 tax cert** to the parish office. If you received a letter from the office with the CHY4 cert and have not returned it to us, we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.