



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

14th March 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.

On 8th March €2,870 was lodged to the **blue envelope** account and €975 lodged to the **white envelope** account. **Standing Orders** for February was €3,842.23

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.

Wednesday is the **Feast of St Patrick**. The Mass will be streamed at 11.00am.

St Patrick's Breastplate.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me.

Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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.

Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.

On Friday night next 19th March, the Feast of St Joseph, **Stations of the Cross** will be streamed at 8.00pm using the usual link.

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 and envelopes are available at the back of the church.

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.

14 Mar	Fourth Sunday of Lent	21 Mar	Fifth Sunday of Lent
11.00am	Vincent McAuley Brendan Menton Seamus, Kit & Bridget Ennis Noel Ennis & Irene Ennis-Dunne Baby Marcus Crawley Vera Tierney	11.00am	Noel Duggan Breda & Denis Lane Dick & Chris Donnelly James Byrne & the deceased members of the family Jimmy Landy

Monday

John Drea

Wednesday

Caoimhe Hughes (11.00am)

Statement released on the second day of the Spring General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

On 19 February the four Catholic Archbishops had a meeting with Taoiseach Micheál Martin to continue the dialogue about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of people in our Church. At that meeting the Archbishops affirmed the Church's commitment to the protection of life, health and the promotion of the Common Good. During their Spring Conference, bishops reflected on that meeting and released the following statement:

“We strongly believe that people's freedom to worship publicly should be restored as soon as the current Level 5 restrictions begin to be eased. It is particularly painful for Christians to be deprived, for the second year running, of the public expression of our faith during the most sacred time of Holy Week and Easter. This is especially true given that it has been clearly demonstrated that church buildings are among the safest places for people to gather. We also re-emphasise that the ongoing severe restrictions on attendance at Funeral Masses (currently limited to ten) are causing untold grief to many families.

Throughout this time of pandemic the approach of the Church has been firmly grounded in the protection of health and life and in the promotion of the Common Good. We recognise that strong restrictions are necessary in times of grave threat to public health. However, such restrictions on personal freedom should be proportionate and for the shortest time possible. Consideration must also be given to people's mental, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. For people of faith, gathering for worship is fundamental to their identity and to their spiritual lives.

Despite assurances from the Taoiseach last month that the concerns expressed by the Archbishops would be given serious consideration, we note with disappointment that none of the issues raised has been responded to.

We therefore make an urgent appeal that the following matters be addressed:

1. That the easing of restrictions from Level 5 should include the restoration of public worship, albeit in a safe and limited way. For people of faith not to be free to worship until regulations return to Level 2, whilst many other restrictions are eased, is seen as particularly distressing and unjust.
2. That the number of mourners permitted at funeral services be increased, with immediate effect, noting that in Northern Ireland this number has not been reduced below 25. The current restriction places immense burdens on grieving families, compounding the pain of their loss.

We strongly believe that allowing these measures would contribute greatly to giving a sense of hope and consolation to many in our Church - in line with the central message of Easter. These measures would be a substantial support to the wellbeing of individuals and parish communities, and ultimately serve the Common Good of all.

We encourage Catholics to make their views on these issues known to their own TDs and local representatives.

We wish to remain responsive to public health messaging. For this reason we are recommending the postponement of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies for the time being.

We continue to keep in prayer all who are suffering in this time of Covid, and all who contribute so much to their care”.

Quotes from Pope Francis in Iraq last week.

“The Church in Iraq is alive and at work in his holy and faithful people”

“If God is a God of life – for so he is – then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his name
If God is a God of peace– for so he is – then it is wrong for us to wage war in his name.
If God is a God of love – for so he is – then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters”

“Even amid the ravages of terrorism and war, we can see, with the eyes of faith, the triumph of life over death”