



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

6th December 2020

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 10.00pm.

Holy Hour in the Nursing Home chapel on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. Suspended.

Please **pray for the repose of the souls** of Steve Lynch (Cairn Manor);
Karen Monahan (Herbertstown) sister of Fiona Monahan (Fairycastle Lodge);
Patrick Bissett (Kenstown), brother of Jean Donnelly (Lagore Road) and
Betty Kelly (Dungannon) mother of Brian Kelly (Meadowbank Hill) who died during the week.
May they rest in peace.

Tuesday is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. There will be a Mass at 11.00am and 7.00pm

White envelopes lodged on 2nd December €1,960

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

There is an **online donation facility** on the Parish Website – www.ratoathparish.ie

Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office. The stipend for a Mass is €10

On **Friday 11th December** at 7:30pm a **Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration** will take place in the church accompanied by some music, concluding with Benediction, to help parishioners enter into the spirit of the Advent season. Confessions will also be available.

Distribution of Parish Envelopes

In early December the envelopes for 2021 will be distributed. We are most grateful to all who distribute the envelopes for us, as they are an important source of income for the parish.

We are looking for a few more people who might be willing to give up an hour of their time to help with the distribution of envelopes for us. If you can help us, would you please ring the parish office (01-8256207) and leave your name with Maureen.

6 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent	13 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Alan Rafferty	7.00pm	Joan & Bob Slattery Thady Murray Maura McLoughlin Holy Souls
9.00am	Ben & Vonnie Cullen	9.00am	Tom McGoldrick Bridget & Joseph Gallagher
11.00am	Agnes Farrell (Month's Memory) Richard King & Bridget Wall Angela Walsh Mass for those who sympathised with the Flinter family on the death of Mary	11.00am	
12.15pm	Sean Eiffe Margaret Ward Margaret, Brendan & Paul McDermott & the deceased members of the Reilly family	12.15pm	

Monday Philip Byrne

Wednesday Special Intention

Friday Seamus Keenan (Month's Memory)

Tuesday

Thursday

Christopher & Kathleen Martin (11.00am)

Margaret Ward

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, “*the voice of one crying out in the wilderness*”. Yet it seems he was very popular with “*all the people of Jerusalem*” who went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration.

In John Baptist’s time, the people lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and were waiting for someone who would liberate them. John points to one that is greater than he, he points the people to Jesus.

When Pope Francis released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in October this year he noted that dark clouds hang over our world and he urged everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward, to help ensure the dignity of every person and a more sustainable world for all.

We have certainly experienced a type of *wilderness* this year as we continue to battle the effects of COVID19 and find a way forward. Our communities need messengers, like John, who bring good news, hope and a vision for the future, who point us towards a new way forward.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once more, let’s make the most of this Advent time, the most of this waiting time. May we use this space to reflect on what type world can be born out of this wilderness we find ourselves in. May we reach out to those who are crying out for hope during these difficult months, like John the Baptist, offering a positive vision for the future.

from Intercom

Guidance for the resumption of Masses

You should wear a **face covering** in the church.

Please use the **hand sanitizers** that are available in the church porches.

It is important to observe **social distancing** at all time – in approaching and leaving the church and in the church building. It is especially important not to congregate outside the church after Mass.

The guidance is to help keep everyone safe.

The same restrictions that existed before apply, i.e. a church may not have more than 50 people attending religious worship.

However if the church has a capacity for more than 50, this will be allowed only when social distancing guidelines and spacing between sections are adhered to and the church can be divided into sections. Each section can have no more than 50 people and each section must have its own entrance/ exit.

Our parish church has three distinct sections (**pods**) - the gallery; the seats on the right side of the main body of the church and the seats on the left side of the main body of the church. The family room is not a section (pod). Each section is allowed to have a maximum of 50 people, once the guidelines are adhered to. The guidelines also indicate that the numbers permitted for Funerals and Weddings Masses will remain at 25.

The **Prayer Intention of Pope Francis** for the month of December: “That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer”.

The Diocese of Meath has a **Safeguarding Children Policy**; you may access this on www.meathsafeguarding.ie

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.