



# 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

8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Eucharistic Adoration** on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm

**SVP Holy Trinity Ratoath** conference would like to thank our parish for their generous contribution to our recent annual Christmas appeal. Your continued generosity is much appreciated.

**Legion of Mary:** New members are very welcome. Meetings each Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Pastoral Centre. Contact May on 087 1334872

New Year **Retreat for Young Adults** (18-40 years) on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January at Dalgan Park, Navan 10am - 5.30pm 'Do not be afraid to dream of Great Things!' Pope Francis

Cost €20 (lunch and tea breaks) Contact: Sr Úna 090 6481666 or email: [youthretreats@gmail.com](mailto:youthretreats@gmail.com)

**Rathbeggan NS** enrolling for September 2023 now. Call 018259891 or email [office@rathbeggans.ie](mailto:office@rathbeggans.ie) for further information. [www.rathbeggans.ie](http://www.rathbeggans.ie)

**Meath Alzheimer Cafés** are returning to the Pastoral Centre in Dunshaughlin. The next Alzheimer Café is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January from 7 to 9pm. All families/carers and loved ones living with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia are welcome to attend, and join us for tea, coffee, and scones. Guest speaker is Dr Orla Brady Dolan, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at NUI Galway, and Senior Occupational Therapist with HSE. "Meaningful Daily Occupations for People with Dementia".

Are you or someone you know, living with a long term health condition? If so, then you may be interested in the '**Living Well Programme**'. It is a Free ONLINE, 6 week group self-management programme for adults living with long term health conditions. There are spaces available on our January Programmes. To book your place please contact Aine (041) 6850676 / (087) 1140371 or Joanne (041) 6860710 / (087) 4308735 or [www.hse.ie/livingwell](http://www.hse.ie/livingwell)

8 Jan	The Baptism of the Lord	15 Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.00pm	Ann Malone Kathleen & Johnny Staunton	7.00pm	
9.00am		9.00am	Joan & Bob Slattery Thady Murray
11.00am	Myles O'Dwyer (Month's Memory) Eileen Flinter John, Brian, Michael & Mary Clair Brazil Christy & Christina Rooney Heather Dosunmu Deceased members of the Deering family	11.00am	Declan Hoare Maureen & Ben Glynn
12.15pm	Martin Cusack & the deceased members of the family Michael Scannell Joe Sherwin & the deceased members of the Sherwin family	12.15pm	Florence O'Neill Pat & Mary Reilly Tommy & Bridie Dolan

Tuesday  
Thursday

Martin & Deirdre Cusack  
Tess Landy (Month's Memory)

## Excerpt of Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace (part two)

After Covid-19, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities. I have already observed on a number of occasions that we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse. Today we are being asked: What did we learn from the pandemic? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?

Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. Consequently, we urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of this human fraternity. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.

The pandemic brought all this to the fore, yet it also had its positive effects. These include a chastened return to humility and a renewed sense of solidarity that has made us more sensitive to the suffering of others and more responsive to their needs.

This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word "together" to a central place. For it is together, in fraternity and solidarity, that we build peace, ensure justice and emerge from the greatest disasters.

Even so, at the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin.

What then is being asked of us? ..We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

In order to do this, and to live better lives after the Covid-19 emergency, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard. Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace.