



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

7th February 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.

Please pray for the **repose of the soul** of Bill Mills (Fairycastle Road); Breda Healy (Cork), mother of Brian Healy (Fairycastle Lodge); Robert McKenna (Ferbane), father of Yvonne Ralph (Dunshaughlin Road) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

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.

Excerpt from the Homily of the new Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell on the occasion of his installation last Tuesday

I come to you with hope in my heart. It is not a naive hope that everything will be better tomorrow, but a hope born of a conviction that transcends these difficult days through which we are living, and a hope that transcends the limits our own capabilities. Faith is not an invitation to put up with life's difficulties and frustrations. Rather, faith asks us to see these as a time of grace.

Hearing what the Spirit is saying to the churches is no easy matter. There is no infallible way. But there is a clear way, a tried and trusted way. That way is a way *with each other* – *slí le chéile*. The Church of the future, the *living* Church of the future, will [have to] be a synodal church, or it will not be at all. We will have to be “a Church that listens to the faithful people of God, the priest, the bishop, the Holy Father; all listening to each other; all listening to the Holy Spirit. It is an illusion to envisage a plan of evangelisation which is carried out only by clergy while the rest of the faithful are merely onlookers. The mission of the Church, the work of God, is not just the responsibility of a group of professionals; it is the call and responsibility of every baptised person whose active participation in the mission of the Church is to be considered indispensable and necessary. In this light, the active participation of the laity becomes essential. They constitute the vast majority of the people of God. Indeed, as Saint John Henry Newman, remarked perceptively, “The Church would seem foolish without them”. In this light, leadership in the Church is not about telling people what to do; rather it is about promoting co-responsibility and overcoming the mindset which runs the risk of relegating the baptised to a subordinate role, effectively keeping them on the edges of Church life.

7 Feb	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	14 Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00am	Marie Schraudner (Month's Mind) Pauline Vidler Michael Eiffe Peter & Jim Brady Tom, Catherine & Tommy McLoughlin Eugene Gleeson John Hickey Al Moroney Declan Hoare Thomas Everard Breda Healy	11.00am	Florence O'Neill (Month's Memory) Michael & Elizabeth Kavanagh Edward & Mary Rafferty David Nelson Leo Digan

Monday

Paddy & Marie Ryan

Tuesday

George McAuley

Wednesday

Simon Pearson

Thursday 11th February is **the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** and is the **World Day of the Sick**. At Mass **this Sunday (7th February)** we will pray for all the sick and all those who take care of them, remembering especially those who were ill in the past year. We will pray too for all those who died from Covid 19 and those who have been bereaved at this difficult time.

***Excerpt of Message of Pope Francis for World Day of the Sick 11th February
– the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes***

Dear brothers and sisters,

The celebration of the World Day of the Sick on the Feast of Lady of Lourdes, is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalized, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church's loving concern.....

The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities or life's incessant worries.

Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer.

Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights. The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick. Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner...

Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.

Such closeness is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering. As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the *Good Samaritan*, who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin. United to Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters. We experience this closeness not only as individuals but also as a community. Indeed, fraternal love in Christ generates a community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need.

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.

At level 5, baptisms may not take place. Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.