



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

11th February 2024

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday.

There will a Mass at 9.45am and 7.00pm on Wednesday, with ashes blessed and distributed at both Masses.

On Ash Wednesday, the church repeats for us the powerful appeal which the prophet Joel addressed to the people of Israel – *“now it is the Lord who speaks – .. turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness and ready to relent”*.

May we feel deep within us the call to return to God, accepting his grace into our lives.

We encourage all to make every effort for **prayer** during the season of Lent. Come to the morning Mass; or visit the Blessed Sacrament for a period of time during Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 7.00pm

Accord, Navan has finalised dates for our **Marriage Preparation Courses** up to June 2024.

All courses are in-person at our Centre here in Navan. Couples can select dates and book

www.courses.accord.ie/booking/listing/meath.

Please note the new email address is navan@accord.ie**

Confirmation

We congratulate all the boys and girls who were confirmed by Bishop Deenihan on Friday.
We thank them for all their efforts and work and their prayers in the weeks of preparation.

We thank their teachers and the whole school community who have guided, supported and prepared the children for the Sacrament. And we thank the choirs from St Paul's National School and Ratoath Senior National School and all those who lead and conducted them as they greatly enhanced the ceremonies with their singing.

We are grateful too to all the parents who supported their sons and daughters in their faith journey this year.

We pray that the Holy Spirit, who came down on these candidates on Confirmation Day, may continue to guide and direct these boys and girls in the ways of faith and help them to live good and holy lives.

11 Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	18 Feb	First Sunday of Lent
7.00pm	Lil Keogh (Month's Memory) Roisin Kennedy	7.00pm	
9.00am	Olive Brennan	9.00am	
11.00am	Babs Brennan (Month's Memory) Claire Butler David Nelson Al Maroney	11.00am	David Donohue Renate Munnelly
12.15pm	Nicky Sherry Leo Digan Marie Dempsey Louise Kelly	12.15pm	Colm & Attracta Donnelly Tom Everard

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Gail Geoghegan

Rosemary Getty; Tim & Matilda Burns

Masses at 9.45am and 7.00pm

Excerpt from the message of Pope Francis for the World Day of the Sick 11th February

“It is not good that man should be alone”. From the beginning, God, who is love, created us ...with an innate capacity to enter into relationship with others....We were created to be together, not alone... This is all the more the case at times of vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity, caused often by the onset of a serious illness.....

Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers – , with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done and all of us are called to ensure that it happens...

Let us remember this central truth in life: we came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity. This aspect of our lives is what sustains us, above all at times of illness and vulnerability. It is also the first therapy that we must all adopt in order to heal the diseases of the society in which we live.

To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves.

At this time of epochal change, we Christians in particular are called to adopt the compassion-filled gaze of Jesus. Let us care for those who suffer and are alone, perhaps marginalized and cast aside. With the love for one another that Christ the Lord bestows on us in prayer, especially in the Eucharist, let us tend the wounds of solitude and isolation. In this way, we will cooperate in combating the culture of individualism, indifference and waste, and enable the growth of a culture of tenderness and compassion.

The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

The Pope's Intention for February

For the Terminally Ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness and their families receive the necessary spiritual care and accompaniment.

Young Adult Retreat for Lent Saturday 17th February (10am -5pm) in Dalgan Park, Navan
'Cast you cares on the Lord, and He will support you' Psalm 5:7. Join other young people in prayer, friendship, Holy Mass, peaceful walks and talks. Opportunity for confession/ personal talk
Cost: €20 (lunch and tea breaks provided)

Contact : Sr Úna 090 6481666 or email: youthretreats@gmail.com

Ratoath College Incoming 1st Years 2024.

Blondelles will be fitting on girls Monday 26th February and Saturday 2nd March
and boys on Monday 4th March and Saturday 9th March. Please phone 8257711 for any enquiries.

White Envelope Collection (Development Fund) €2,471.00

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Next Sunday is a **blue offering** day.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo 3rd March. €799.00 pps. Price includes 5 nights' in 4star Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch/Snack on 2 days. Afternoon Tea at Ashford Castle. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Cong. Single supplement on Enquiry.
Contact Patricia on 094 9006426 or 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.