



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

3rd December 2023

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm. New adorers always welcome

There will be no 12.15pm Mass on Sunday 24th December

Please **pray for the repose of the soul of** John Kelly (Ballsbridge and Ratoath) and Seamus Cunningham (Carlow) brother of Ann O'Malley (Mruigtuaithé) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

Friday is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. Mass will be at 11.00am

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are now available in the Parish Office.

Parish Envelopes – can you help? The parish envelopes are a major source of income to the parish and we appreciate all who contribute to the parish using the parish envelope. In the next few weeks the parish envelopes will be distributed for the coming year and we thank and are most grateful to all who assist in leaving boxes of envelopes at the door of houses.

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help in this work.

If you can spare about an hour in the next few weeks, we would be delighted to hear from you.

All active and auxiliary members of the **Legion of Mary** are cordially invited to our annual reunion next Sunday 10th December from 3.00 pm until 6.00 pm in Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre.

Contact May 087 133 4872

East Meath Pioneers will attend Holy Mass in Dunshaughlin Church on Sunday 3rd Dec at 3.00 pm followed by meeting in Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre. Everyone is welcome. May on 087 133 4872

Fr Tony Gonoude, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Meath will celebrate two Masses for **Vocations to the Priesthood** this coming week.

Wednesday 6th December at 10 am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt, Co Cavan where he will reflect on the example of St Nicholas who in his vocation, became a living imitation of Christ.

Friday 8th December at 8pm in the Church of Ss Peter & Paul, Dunboyne, Co Meath where he will reflect on Mary, the Immaculate vocation who inspires us to follow her Son.

Vocations Contact Details: Website: www.meathvocations.com

Email: vocations@dioceseofmeath.ie

Tel: Fr Tony Gonoude: 044 9373923

3 Dec	First Sunday of Advent	10 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Alan Rafferty Joe & Teasie Gorman Johnny & Mary O'Brien	7.00pm	Serghei Buga Pat & Sheila Naughton
9.00am	Thomas, Julia & James O'Reilly	9.00am	Margaret Ward
11.00am	Elizabele Maruseviciene (Month's Memory)	11.00am	Martin Kerrigan Mary & Michael Nally Ben & Vonnie Cullen
12.15pm	Steve Lynch Sean & Lorraine Eiffe Joe Keogh Eamonn Coyne	12.15pm	Myles O'Dwyer Frank Goodman

Friday

Mass at 11.00am Christy & Kathleen Martin & Maria Edwards

The St Vincent de Paul annual church gate collection will take place next weekend 9th and 10th December.

Thanks to the generous support of the Irish public the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) has provided €332 million worth of direct assistance to those who have sought its help over the past ten years.

As Christmas approaches, SVP estimates over a quarter of a million request for help this year. With calls for help already at almost 200,000 to date this year, the Society expects calls at the end of this year to well exceed last year's record 230,000 calls.

This year's Annual Appeal is focused on providing help to struggling parents who wonder how they will provide a Happy Christmas for their families. The campaign is entitled "*The Wonder of Christmas*" and subtitled "*Will we have Christmas at all*"

The President of the SVP Rose McGowan said that according to the latest CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions there are over 670,000 people at risk of poverty in Ireland, almost 875,000 people were experiencing enforced deprivation and going without essentials and over 265,000 live in consistent poverty.

She said that "Despite the additional cost-of-living support payments made by the Government, there are many people who continue to struggle to meet basic family expenses. This struggle becomes even more difficult on special occasions such as Christmas. Those hardest hit will include one parent-families, low-income workers; households on fixed social welfare incomes; low-income households in rural areas; people with disabilities and their carers. That is why we are seeking donations to help families pay for food, heat their homes and ensure their children get a decent Christmas."

Advent Reflection

Because Christians have always recognised the importance of waiting and preparation, they intentionally built periods of waiting into the Christian calendar. This is a way of making room for this important piece of life that the world is so eager to get rid of. It slows us down, reorients us around God and gives us time to reflect, to prepare, to rest.

Advent is one of those seasons of waiting. When we come to Advent we remember the promise that Christ has come and will come again, but we also remember that we are not ready to jump headlong into celebration. First, we must prepare.

Waiting is a gift. Let us be ready for the sweetness that has come and that is coming again.

from www.unitedchurchofsoro.org

Ratoath GAA Club: **Sensory Friendly Santa** (to accommodate children with additional needs) on Saturday 9th December from 1pm to 6pm.

And **Santa** invites all children on Sunday 10th December from 1pm to 6pm.

Admission free. All donations to LauraLynn Hospice.

Goodie bags and Photo with Santa for all children; face painting; mulled wine and mince pies.

Archaeological & Historical Society: at Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda on 3rd December at 3pm. "Excavations at the French Cistercian Grange of Beaubec" Co Meath. Speaker - Dr Geraldine Stout.

A Christmas Food and Craft Fair will take place on Sunday 10th December from 2-5pm in the Sports Hall of Claremont Stadium, Commons Road, Navan. There will be stalls filled with ideal gift ideas for this festive season and music by Navan Community Singers. Some places still remain, any interested vendors are asked to contact events@claremontstadium.ie for an application form or call 046 902 9693.