



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

16th May 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

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 Joe McGrath (Porterstown Lane) who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Welcome back to Mass

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.

Each pod is allowed to have a maximum of 50 people, once the guidelines are adhered to.

So our church has capacity **for 150** people at any one Mass.

The following guidelines are in place and are given so as to help keep everyone safe.

1. You should wear a **face covering** in the church.
2. Please use the **hand sanitizers** that are available in the church porches.
3. It is important to observe **social distancing** at all times – in approaching and leaving the church and in the church building. It is especially important not to congregate outside the church after Mass.
4. Special arrangements for Holy Communion, so that there is no movement between sections (pods)
5. **Holy Communion** should be received in the hand.
6. Parishioners must enter and leave the church by the designate doors.
7. The church will be sanitised and ventilated on a regular basis.

Baptisms

Each family can bring a maximum of 10 people and there will be a number of baptismal ceremonies on the same Saturday in an effort to accommodate those who could not have baptisms because of the restrictions to date. In the immediate future, there will be baptisms held on 29th May and 5th June.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will revert to the usual day Wednesday beginning after the morning Mass and ending at 7.00pm. (Please note the change of the finishing time)

Streaming of Masses: We will continue to stream the 11.00am Mass on Sundays.

Parish Office: The Parish Office has reopened at the regular times.

16 May	The Ascension of the Lord	23 May	Pentecost Sunday
7.00pm	Yvonne Saul Fagan Kevin Cunningham Padraic O'Malley	7.00pm	Patrick & Mary Wall
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Mary Flinter George & Albert McAuley Daniel & Sarah Eiffe Angelo & Ellen Whyte Ann, Tom, John & Bridgie Reilly Michael McMahon	11.00am	Vonnie & Ben Cullen
12.15pm	Nancy Ryan	12.15pm	

Tuesday Christopher & Kathleen Harford

Friday

Keith Mc Donald

Pope Francis – General Audience on Wednesday last.

Pope Francis held a general audience with visitors and pilgrims present for the first time in more than six months, on Wednesday saying he was very pleased to see people “face to face.”

“I’ll tell you something: It’s not nice to talk in front of nothing, just a camera. It’s not nice,” the pope told those who attended the audience.

In his address the pope told pilgrims that “Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not *a walk in the park*.” He pointed out that so many of the “great praying people we meet in the Bible and the history of the Church did not have a *comfortable* prayer,” but encouraged us to never forget that Jesus is always with us.

Continuing a cycle of reflections dedicated to Christian prayer, the Pope focused on the theme of “spiritual struggle” and on how the great masters of Christian history recognize that prayer is not always easy, for our human nature.

Prayer, the Pope said, certainly gives great peace, but praying is not something easy: “Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realise that those things were not essential at all and that we may have wasted time.”

The Holy Father reflected on how even some saints have lamented the fatigue and discomfort of prayer and yet continued to persevere in prayer for years, “without savouring it, without perceiving its usefulness.”

“Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels,” he said, “We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, on that church pew, praying.”

Faith is not easy, he added, “and sometimes it proceeds in almost total darkness, without points of reference.”

The worst enemies of prayer, he said, are to be found within us.

Jesus, the Pope concluded, is always with us: “If in a moment of blindness, we cannot see His presence, we will in the future,” and he reminded believers that “At the end of our lives, looking back, we too will be able to say: “I thought I was alone, but no, I was not: Jesus was with me”.

Standing Orders for April €5,201.13

We are most grateful to all our parishioners who have left in envelopes and donations to the parish office during the lockdown and thank you for your continued support and generosity.

In the recent **clerical changes**, that come into effect on 3rd July, Bishop Deenihan has appointed Fr Gerry as administrator of Curraha and Ardcath parishes in addition to his duties as P.P. of Ratoath. Fr Brendan Ferris is leaving Curraha and Ardcath to become PP of Stamullen and Fr Kevin Heery CC Mullingar is to be CC Curraha and Ardcath parishes.

Fr John Nally PP Ashbourne is to go on loan to the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore and Fr Michael Kilmartin PP Longwood is to be PP Ashbourne.

All the changes can be found in the diocesan website www.dioceseofmeath.ie

The Feast of the Ascension

“In Christ ascended into heaven, the human being has entered into intimacy with God in a new and unheard of way; man henceforth finds room in God forever.....heaven does not indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime...” (Pope Benedict XVI)