



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

28th 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 Kevin Brady (“The Poplars”) and James Reid (Castleknock) brother of Madeline Lagan (Glascarn) and nephew of Josie Branigan (Moatlands) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

White envelopes - lodged €3,660 on 22nd February.

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

Thanks to all who returned the **completed CHY4 forms** to the parish office. If you have not done so, we would be grateful if you could complete the form and return it to the office.

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.

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.

For the weeks of Lent, we will have **Eucharistic Adoration** from **2.00pm to 5.00pm every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday**.

Please visit the church to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

Diocese of Meath Vocations: Jesus said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself”. Is the Lord drawing you to Him in a call to the Sacred Priesthood? Please join us for an hour of Adoration and reflection on the call of Jesus who wants to lift you to Himself on Thursday 4th March at 7pm by Livestream on the ‘Diocese of Meath Vocations’ Facebook Page.

Tarsus Scripture School - for Lent and Easter 2021

Easter: Weaving the Tapestry of Death and New Life. 9 pre-recorded lectures; 1 webinar; 1 meditation (€30). For registration and further details, please go to: www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie.

“Behold my servant”: the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah (Jessie Rogers)

“And when I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself”: Easter in John (Sean Goan)

“Dying and raised to new life in Christ”: Salvation in Romans. (Kieran J. O'Mahony)

28 Feb	Second Sunday of Lent	7 March	Third Sunday of Lent
11.00am	Breda Healy (Month's Memory) Patricia Malin Elizabeth & Jack Ryan Packie, Catherine & Francis O'Brien Noel, Teresa and baby Noel Scally Nina Madden	11.00am	Margaret, Brendan & Paul McDermott & the deceased members of the Reilly family Paddy Moore Michael Gilchrist Sister Illtyd Kevin & Brendan Carr

Monday Special Intention

Tuesday Deirdre Fairbrother

Wednesday Mary Corcoran

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

It is not surprising that, in the bible, mountains are associated with divine encounters.

It was on a mountain that Moses received the commandments, Elijah experienced a mystical meeting with God, and Jesus delivered the great sermon which is the charter of Christian living.

On a high mountain Peter, James and John were granted a new understanding of Jesus. They got a little glimpse of his divine glory. They had to come down from the height but memory kept the experience alive. These three apostles needed this supportive memory when they witnessed the dreadful agony of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Later, as pillars of the early Church they experienced many difficult times.

The Second Letter of Peter lets us know how they tapped into this precious bank of memory. "We were with him on the holy mountain". We must treasure our moments of insight and tap into the bank of golden memories when the going is hard.

The voice from above which the apostles heard affirmed the identity of Jesus and the importance of listening to his teaching. "This is my Son the Beloved. Listen to him".

Listen to him

In this technological age, on social media there are many voices competing for our attention.

Remember that Jesus warned us that when the blind lead the blind, both fall into the pit. Some of this false leadership has serious consequences. As in Hitler's time, there are false prophets who are whipping up feelings of discontent, social anger, homophobia and racist prejudice. This has become the age of post-truth when people lap up conspiracy theories to deny election results, the reality of climate change, Covid-19 vaccination and the legitimacy of the papacy of Pope Francis. Truth may be silenced for a while but it cannot die.

Who guides me?

Lent is a good time for asking ourselves who directs our lives. As the psalm reminds us, the Lord is the Good Shepherd who guides us along the right path. Whose voice do we follow?

We are quite aware how much our physical diet affects our state of health. But are we equally sensitive to the effects of our mental diet on our spiritual life? Anybody who feeds the mind with pornography or noisy, violent films is asking for trouble.

A serious Lent will mean cutting back on the time we give to compulsive radio, obsessive television and internet addiction. Some people recommend a Digital Detox Day once a week. Even a Digital Detox Hour each day might be a good start. We need to relearn how to listen to God, to listen attentively to other people and even to listen to our own inner feelings.

To listen with attention is the first step in loving.

Trocaire boxes are available at the back of the church.

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Fr James Oyet Latansio is an African priest who sees at first hand the benefits your donations to Trocaire bring to his people in South Sudan.

Fr James wrote to all Parish Priests in Ireland this month and said:

'It is great to work with Trócaire. In my parish, Trócaire is working with families to train them in the best farming methods, provide water and empower women and girls who have experienced violence. This is possible through the support of parishes in the north and south of Ireland – your prayers, actions and donations enable us here to respond. My message to you is thank you for thinking of your sisters and brothers in South Sudan, and please be assured of my prayers and gratitude".

Meath Alzheimer Cafés are now being held online. The next Virtual Café will take place at 11:00 am on Wednesday 3rd March. The guest speaker is Elaine Crocker, ASI Helpline Adviser, who will speak about "Supports and Resources for Family Carers". All families/carers and loved ones living with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia are welcome to join us. If you wish to take part please email: meathvirtualcafe@alzheimer.ie and you will receive an invitation to attend.