



# 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

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

**Eucharistic Adoration** on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul of** John Landy (Leigh Valley) who died recently. May he rest in peace.

There will be **no 12.15pm Mass** on Sundays in the months of July and August this year. The 12.15pm Mass will resume on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cemetery Sunday** is next **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May** beginning with prayers for the dead in the church at 3.00pm followed by rosary and blessing of the graves. Please inform family members and friends. Since it is three years, since our last Cemetery devotions, we ask you to make a special effort to prepare your family plots and to attend on the day. We are especially thankful to those who have volunteered to assist with the grass cutting and keeping the cemetery in good shape. A collection will be held at the gates of the cemetery after the ceremony to help with the running costs of the cemetery. We ask you to be as generous as possible.

**Standing Orders** for April €4,972.47. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

**Congratulations** to the boys and girls of Second class in **Rathbeggan National School** who received their **First Communion** on Saturday. We are grateful to their parents who have accompanied their children on their faith journey this year. We are especially thankful to the teachers in these classes who prepared the boys and girls for their First Confessions and First Communion. Thanks too to the principal and all the staff in Rathbeggan NS who supported all the work and preparation for the day.

22 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	29 May	The Ascension of the Lord
7.00pm	Frances Daly (Month's Memory) Padraig O'Malley Mary & Patrick Wall	7.00pm	Maureen Moran
9.00am		9.00am	Desmond & Julia Toole Ita & Oliver Doran
11.00am	Vonnie & Ben Cullen Dan & Sarah Eiffe Bernard Eiffe Michael & Elizabeth Kavanagh Edward & Mary Rafferty Michael McMahon	11.00am	Bernard McMahon (Month's Memory) Peter & Jimmy Brady
12.15pm	Christina Gleeson Jimmy White Keith McDonald	12.15pm	John Long Michael Murphy Eileen McDermott Rose Hickey Rosaleen McCann Anne Fitzgerald Andy Eiffe

Tuesday Ruairi & Pauline Henderson

Wednesday

Michael Murphy

**Legion of Mary** meetings are held every Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Pastoral Centre. New members are always welcome.

**Meath Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 led by Bishop Deenihan. Booking forms available from: Joe Walsh Tours, 69 O'Connell St, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-2410800. The pilgrimage this year will be for Hotel Pilgrims only.

A huge thank you to all for the fantastic support you have given us for our **garden fundraiser** last weekend! Each and every contribution-donations of plants, flowers, baking, gifts and raffle prize as well as the lovely background music provided helped to create a lovely atmosphere. We are thrilled to announce a grand total of €10,000 raised, which will be very much appreciated by our Cancer care support services, the Irish Cancer society, St Francis hospice and Gary Kelly support centre. Thanks to you all.

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### **Excerpt of the Homily of Pope Francis at the Canonisation last Sunday in Rome**

We have heard what Jesus told his disciples before leaving this world and returning to the Father. He told us what it means to be a Christian: “Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another”. This is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly his disciples. It is the commandment of love. Let us stop to consider two essential elements of this commandment: Jesus’ love for us – “*as I have loved you*” – and the love he asks us to show to others – “*so you must love one another*”.

First, the words “*as I have loved you*”. How did Jesus love us? To the very end, to the total gift of himself. It is striking to think that he spoke these words on that night of darkness, when the atmosphere in the Upper Room was one of deep emotion and anxiety: deep emotion, because the Master was about to bid farewell to his disciples; anxiety because he had said that one of them would betray him. We can imagine the sorrow that filled the heart of Jesus, the dark clouds that were gathering in the hearts of the apostles, and their bitterness at seeing Judas who, after receiving the morsel dipped for him by the Master, left the room to enter into the night of betrayal. Yet at the very hour of his betrayal, Jesus reaffirmed his love for his own. For amid the darkness and tempests of life, that is the most important thing of all: God loves us.

Brothers and sisters, may this message be the core of our own faith. Let us never forget this. Our abilities and our merits are not the central thing, but rather the unconditional, free and unmerited love of God. He loved us first; he waits for us; he keeps loving us. This is our identity: we are God’s loved ones. This is our strength: we are loved by God.

The love that we receive from the Lord is the force that transforms our lives. It opens our hearts and enables us to love. For this reason, Jesus says – here is the second element – “*as I have loved you, so must you love one another*”. That word “*as*” is not simply an invitation to imitate Jesus’ love; it tells us that we are able to love only because he has loved us, because he pours into our hearts his own Spirit, the Spirit of holiness, love that heals and transforms.

As a result, we can make decisions and perform works of love in every situation and for every brother and sister whom we meet, because we ourselves are loved and we have the power to love. As I myself am loved, so I can love others. The love I give is united to Jesus’ love for me. “*As*” he loved me, so I can love others. The Christian life is just that simple. Let’s not make it more complicated with so many things. It is just that simple.