



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

31st December 2023

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday 3rd January

Eucharistic Adoration will resume on Wednesday 10th January

Saturday is the **Feast of the Epiphany** of the Lord and Mass will be at 11.00pm for the feast day.

Please pray for the **repose of the souls** of Paddy Dalton (Jamestown Park); Frank Quigley (Clonkeen); James Brennan (Brownstown); Carmel Curran (The Grange) who died recently. May they rest in peace.

We welcome Ronan Carroll and Conor Thomas into the Christian community. They were **baptized** recently.

The **Parish Office** will reopen on Wednesday 3rd January

White Envelope Collection (Development Fund) €5,714.64 **Blue Envelopes** €11,405.50

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

31 Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	7 January	The Baptism of the Lord
7.00pm	Thomas & Mary Wall Tom, Mary & Edward Gannon & the deceased members of the Gannon family Maura & Angela Reilly	7.00pm	Kathleen & Johnny Staunton
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Tom & Claire Kinsella	11.00am	Christina & Christy Rooney Ciaran Kilcline Rose McGirl John, Brian, Michael & Mary Clair Brazil Eileen Flinter
12.15pm	Tom Murphy & the deceased members of the family George & Albert McAuley & the deceased members of the family Brian Kelly Marcella McLoughlin	12.15pm	Anne Malone Heather Dosunmu Ambrose Richards Tom Reeves

Monday	New Year's Day is World Day of Peace- Funeral Mass at 11.00am
Tuesday	Eveleen Gough
Wednesday	Ellen Lynam
Thursday	The deceased members of the Connelly family
Friday	Mass for all those on the Parish List of the Dead
Saturday	The Epiphany of the Lord - Mass at 11.00am

We wish all our parishioners every joy and blessing
for the New Year.

A Family Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of a new year.
We pray that you will guide us and bless us throughout this year.
We ask that you help us to grow in faith, hope and love.
May we be a light to others and share your love with those around us.
We pray for peace in our homes, our communities and our world.
We pray for those who are suffering, that they may find comfort and healing.
We pray for those who are lost, that they may find their way.
Keep our family in your care today, tonight and always. Amen.

From the Christmas Message of Pope Francis on Christmas Day

In his Christmas message at the midday "Urbi et Orbi" blessing on Christmas Day, Pope Francis speaks of how the Child Jesus reveals God's tender love for each one of us, which brings about "the joy that consoles hearts, renews hope and bestows peace." He prays for world peace and calls for every effort to stop violence and help those who are suffering.

The Pope said we look to the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem during these times, sadly marked by "sorrow and silence." Yet the birth of the Saviour there and the proclamation of the angel, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord," give us great hope as "the Lord has been born for us...the eternal Word of the Father, the infinite God, has made His home among us." Introducing his message, the Pope said the "good news of great joy" we celebrate is the "sure promise of an unprecedented gift: the hope of being born for heaven" as the Lord's birth reveals God's tender love and that Jesus "gives us 'power to become children of God.'"

"This is the joy that consoles hearts, renews hope and bestows peace. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit: the joy born of being God's beloved sons and daughters."

Despite the "deep shadows" covering Bethlehem today, "an undying flame has been lighted" the Pope underscored, as God's light has overcome the darkness.

He prayed that "with God's help" may we make "every effort" for the day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation."

Looking at parts of the world where peace is distant, the Pope prayed for an end to the war devastating the lives of people in Israel and Palestine. He offered his consolation to the people of Gaza and the entire region and in particular the Christian communities.

He said his "heart grieves for the victims of the abominable attack of 7 October," and he repeated his "urgent appeal for the liberation of those still being held hostage."

The Pope pleaded for "an end to the military operations with their appalling harvest of innocent civilian victims" and called for "a solution to the desperate humanitarian situation by an opening to the provision of humanitarian aid" in Gaza.

With an end to the violence, the Pope expressed hopes that sincere and "persevering dialogue" with strong political will and international support can lead to resolving the "Palestinian question."

The Pope named other nations struggling to arrive at peace and stability, mentioning war-torn Syria, Yemen, and struggling Lebanon, assuring all the people of his prayers for their well-being. He implored peace for Ukraine, asking everyone to "renew our spiritual and human closeness to its embattled people" so that they also "may feel the concrete reality of God's love."

May Armenia and Azerbaijan draw closer to a definitive peace, he prayed, especially through humanitarian outreach and the return of refugees to their homes in security and with respect for religious traditions and places of worship.

The Pope prayed for the people of the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, Sudan, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan - all places where tensions are high, but peace is possible with goodwill and hard efforts.

May the "fraternal bonds" be strengthened on the Korean peninsula, the Pope prayed, through "dialogue and reconciliation capable of creating the conditions for lasting peace."

Turning to the Americas, the Pope prayed for common efforts to resolve social and political conflicts, to alleviate poverty, and to address the issues forcing people to migrate.