



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

25th April 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.

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.

25 mourners are permitted at funerals.

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.

Blue envelopes lodged €715 on 19th April. 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.

Eucharistic Adoration will take place **every Friday** after the morning Mass until 6.00pm.

We will review this when we resume public worship in the church.

This is our **last request** for your **Trocaire** contribution. You can leave your Trocaire box at the door of the parish office or if you are using the Trocaire envelope, you can leave your contribution in the letter box at the office. Please **do not** leave your contribution at the back of the church.

Ratoath Junior National School: Notice re **enrolment** of children for 2022/23

If you have a child or know of a child who is due to start school in the year 2022/23 and wishes to be considered for a place in Ratoath Junior National School The Parents/Guardians of the child should fill out and submit our "Notification of Enrolment Form " available on the school web site

www.ratoathjuniorns.ie or phone 01 8256639 to request the form

Thursday is the Feast of St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380).

She is a doctor of the church and a patron of Europe. Here are some quotes by her.

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire”

“Do not be satisfied with little things because God wants great things”

“God is closer to us than water is to fish”

“It is only through shadows that one comes to know the light”

“You are rewarded not according to your work or your time but according to the measure of your love”

25 April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	2 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter
11.00am	Bridget Boshell Anthony King Ernest & Molly Devine Mattie McCabe Pierce Glynn Kathleen Foy	11.00am	Ita, Masie & Patrick Kennedy Betty Sherry Gerard Ralph Noel & Phil Shanley Bridget & Michael McIntyre & the deceased members of the family

Monday Frank Reynolds
Wednesday Detta Hannigan
Friday Michael & Mick Ryan

Tuesday Paddy Falvey
Thursday Special Intention

This Sunday is **Vocations Sunday** when we celebrate the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. Pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. Vocations Director for the diocese of Meath is *Fr Tony Gonoude 044 9373923*
Website: www.meathvocations.com Facebook Page: *DioceseOfMeathVocations*
Instagram Account: *dioceseofmeathvocations* Email: vocations@dioceseofmeath.ie

From the homily of Bishop Deenihan for Vocations Sunday

“There are currently 119 priests in this Diocese. Of these, 19 are on loan from foreign dioceses or from religious congregations. Of the remaining 100 incardinated priests of the diocese, 37 are over seventy and there are 21 of these men still serving in parishes who are over the age of 70 years. The Diocese then has 63 priests of its own who are under 70 while there are 69 parishes in the Diocese.

Clearly, the shortage of priests will hit further very soon. Indeed, I am currently having discussions with priests about appointments for this year and it is becoming more difficult to fill all positions within the Diocese. There will be reductions this year and strategies to make do but, thankfully, there will be some further priests coming into the diocese from abroad this year also.

Despite that, we are doing better than many other dioceses. But, given that we have 69 parishes and the fact that some parishes need more than one priest, you can see that this cannot continue for long. That is why Pastoral Development, Parish Councils and Faith Development initiatives as well as Vocation promotion will require much attention in the immediate future and will be an immediate priority for the Diocese when restrictions lift.

This has several immediate implications. In practical terms, a few parishes in this diocese will be without a priest shortly, other parishes have already been linked with another neighbouring parish and more will be so linked this year. There has been a corresponding decline in the number of Masses in some parishes already and an increase in workload for those priests who remain working and are covering a greater area. The trend seems likely to continue but fewer priests will inevitably result in some reduction. That situation will affect all of us in years to come”

From the letter of An Taoiseach to the Irish Bishops last Wednesday

I fully appreciate the difficulties people of faith face when they are unable to attend religious services or have numbers at funerals and weddings restricted...

I fully acknowledge the concern of faith leaders and share your wish for a safe return to public worship. It was for this reason that Government has already indicated that we would review the recommencement of public worship, along with a number of other sectors from 4th May.

The extent of that recommencement will be informed by public health advice. I can assure you that Government, when it meets next week, will give careful and positive consideration to reopening Places of Worship in May.

I recognise the importance of faith and communal worship in people’s lives. I commend the vital role that faith leaders have played in supporting people and giving hope at this time of stress and worry – reaching out to those who may feel isolated or marginalised.

When Places of Worship last reopened you had very comprehensive measures in place to ensure the health and safety of your communities and I commend you for this. These measures will be as important as ever as we move to the next phase.

As we look forward to the gradual reopening of society, when the prevailing public health conditions allow, I wish you and your communities a safe return to worship.