

PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, RATOATH, DIOCESE OF MEATH, 2024 AD

☎ 01-8256207 •✉ ratoathparish@gmail.com •🌐 www.ratoathparish.ie • Eircode A85 VX46



Vigil – 7.00pm;

Sunday – 9.00am, 11.00am, 12.15pm (*July & August – no 12.15pm Mass*)

Holy Days – 11.00am

Weekdays – Monday to Friday at 9.45am

Confessions: Before Vigil Mass

Baptisms: on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 4.30pm

Parish Priest: Rev Michael Cahill ~ **Assistant Priest:** Rev Gerry Stuart

Parochial House Eircode: A85 CK73

Parish Office: 10.00am – 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Direct bank transfer – Your donation can be transferred to:

Account Name: Ratoath Church Account No. 1

IBAN: IE33BOFI90318910247285 / **BIC:** BOFIE2D

24 th /25 th DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY		29 th DECEMBER – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	
	All Christmas masses offered for the People of the Parish and their families and loved ones	Saturday 7.00pm	Edward, Mary, Tom&Mary Gannon and deceased family members
		Sunday 9.00am	Mary Corcoran and Rita Cusack
		11.00am	Pro Populo – for the People of the Parish
		12.15pm	Anne Malone, 13 th Anniversary

Mass times this week:Thurs/Fri- no 9.45am mass

Remember, **Christmas is not just one day** it is a season in which we celebrate together day after day at table, in company, in worship, prayer and praise and attentive to the lonely and those in need. Keep the season going! Say ‘*Happy Christmas*’ for the twelve days of Christmas until Epiphany.

In the **Creed** today, all kneel for a moment of wonder at the words ‘*was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man*’.

The Sign of Peace has resumed with the invitation ‘*by word or gesture we offer to the person next to us the sign of peace*’. Please understand if not everyone is comfortable with shaking hands!

A Seasonal word of Thanks and Appreciation from the Parish Priest

Fr Gerry and I extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed once again this year to the preparation and joyful celebration of Christmas in our parish: our faithful sacristan Deirdre Mills for always being on hand; Rosemary and all the members of the Altar Society for the creative floral decorations at Christmas and throughout the liturgical seasons, and John & Bernie Lord at Ratoath Garden Centre for the well matched Christmas trees; our parish organist Mary Hetherington, the Parish Choir and all our dedicated Cantors and Soloists and Ciara Vaughan our organist for the 12:15 mass; Deirdre, Eamon and Larry for preparing the Children’s Choir these past weeks to sing at the 5pm Christmas Family Mass, and Caroline and each and every member of our committed and ever faithful Folk Group;

our three church cleaning teams, the 'Glantori', for diligently maintaining the church throughout the year as a beautiful and welcoming place for worship; our Readers and our Ministers of Holy Communion and those who organise their rotas; our Altar Servers Christopher, Daniel and Timothy and our senior servers who join us again for Christmas: Mark Caffrey, Stephen Dunne and Neil Mather;

the Wednesday Adoration Committee and adorers who pray for the parish; those who take up the Offertory collection and the team who faithfully count the weekly collection; all who distributed the Parish Envelopes these past weeks;

Sean Tubridy who keeps the church grounds in such good shape; Paul and Willie who look after the cemetery; the members of our parish Conference of the Society St Vincent de Paul for their outreach to those in need over Christmas and all year; the members of our Legion of Mary Praesidium who represent the parish on the doorstep of many homes; the members of the Finance Committee who ensure our financial stability for the mission and needs of the parish, and our Pastoral Assembly for their ideas, initiatives and plans for the year to come;

the Principals and Boards of Management of our parish schools, ever helpful school secretaries, and the Parents' Associations.

Finally, a personal, sincere and humble word of thanks from me to each and every one of you for the welcome and encouragement extended to me these past six months, for generosity, gifts and greetings at Christmas, and to my brother priest Father Gerry Stuart for his welcome, cooperation and fellowship. *'Happy Christmas to one and all'*

Fr Michael Cahill

Fr Gerry Stuart

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

This ancient text declares in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Twenty-fifth Day of December.

When ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in His own likeness;
when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set His bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;

in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace, **JESUS CHRIST**, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by His most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since His conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND THEIR LOVED ONES

AT HOME AND ELSEWHERE

A TRULY JOYFUL, HAPPY, HOLY, BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

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