



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

28th November 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

We welcome Zach Wallace into the Christian community. He was **baptised** recently.

Lodged on 24th November €770 to the **blue envelope** account and €735 to the **white envelope** account (Development Fund). Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

The Diocese of Meath has a **Safeguarding Children Policy**; you may access this on www.meathsafeguarding.ie

Distribution of Parish Envelopes: Assistance needed

We are grateful to all who distribute the parish envelopes for us at the end of November and early December every year.

The envelopes are a major source of income to the parish and more so in the past year with the Covid restrictions that were in place in the church.

We are looking for a number of volunteers who would be available to drop the envelopes to a number of areas in the parish. If you can spare an hour for this work, we would be grateful for your assistance.

Mention it to Fr Gerry or Fr Yohanna or contact Maureen at the Parish Office.

Meath Alzheimer Cafés are being held online. The next Virtual Café is on Wednesday December 1st at 11:00 am. This will be our Annual Christmas Party, a social event with no guest speaker. We will have local singers performing some old favourite songs, and Christmas Carols. 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.

28 Nov	First Sunday of Advent	5 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Joe & Teresa Gorman	7.00pm	Patsy & Christy Smith Ann & Frank O'Reilly Alan Rafferty
9.00am	John, Michael & Elizabeth Mulvaney	9.00am	
11.00am	Olive McCann Nicholas O'Connor Michael Ryder Frank & Molly Maher	11.00am	Richard King & Brigid Wall The deceased members of the Glynn & Kavanagh families
12.15pm	Adrian Madden (Month's Memory) Ciaran Kilcline Jack Foley Joan & Karen Monahan	12.15pm	Steve Lynch Sean Eiffe Joe Keogh Margaret, Brendan & Paul McDermott

Monday	Tommy & Nora Byrne
Tuesday	Nano, Maureen & Sean Mahon
Wednesday	Christy Fagan & Maurice Molloy
Thursday	Mass for all who sympathised with the family of the late Charlie Synnott
Friday	Mass for all those on the Parish List of the Dead

Advent Reflection

The Advent season helps us to bear in mind our ultimate destiny. It causes us to call to mind that, God-willing, we will at the end of our earthly lives be in union with our Lord for eternity.

God came into the world to redeem the entire human race, but he will also come again as he promised us. To think about the Second Coming as we prepare to remember his First Coming brings everything full circle. Christ came into the world so that sin would have no reign over us. And when he returns again at the end of the world, he will bring all those who follow him into heaven, where only his love reigns supreme and where the effects of sin will be non-existent.

This is what the season of Advent looks forward to in the truest sense. In the first Advent, God became man. But in the second Advent when our Lord reunites our souls with our bodies, we as men will become like God.

Truly, we must always ponder these two types of “advents”, especially at this time of the year.

from St Bernard of Clairvaux Fourth Sermon for Advent

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

from Pope Benedict XVI

'Light of Christmas shines all the brighter amid darkness of pandemic' (Pope Francis)

On Monday last, Pope Francis meets with participants in the upcoming Christmas Contest, which, "gives a voice to young people by inviting them to create new songs inspired by Christmas and its values., and he tells participants that Christmas is not "out of tune" with the trial we are still facing with the pandemic.

The Pope expressed his happiness at meeting them all "at the threshold of Advent, the period that every year introduces us to Christmas and its Mystery."

He noted that this year, too, the lights of Christmas seem dimmed by the consequences of the pandemic, which, the Pope added, "still weighs heavily on our time."

All the more reason why we are called to question ourselves and not to lose hope, said the Pope, describing the feast of the Birth of Christ as not being "out of tune" with the trial that we are going through, "because it is par excellence the feast of compassion, of tenderness. Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth."

Pope Francis went on to stress that the beauty of Christmas shines through in the sharing of small gestures of concrete love.

"It is not alienating; it is not superficial or escapist. On the contrary, it broadens the heart, opens it to gratuitousness, to the gift of self, and can also generate cultural, social and educational dynamics."

But, continued the Pope, "in order to achieve these objectives, courage is needed: 'The courage to put the person at the centre' and to 'place oneself at the service of the community'," he said.

The Joy of Youth

Young people are not meant to become discouraged: they are meant to dream great things, to seek vast horizons, to aim higher, to take on the world, to accept challenges and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better. That is why I constantly urge young people not to let themselves be robbed of hope; to each of them I repeat: "Let no one despise your youth" (1Tim 4:12)

Pope Francis from Christ is Alive