



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

20th December 2020

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 10.00pm.

Holy Hour in the Nursing Home chapel on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. Suspended.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul** of Maire Ryan (Foxlodge Woods) and Frank Goodman (Raynestown) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

We welcome Isabella Rooney, Ollie Gaughan and Julia Loughnane into the Christian community. They were **baptised** recently.

Congratulations to Camila Vilarinho de Sousa and Glen Reilly (son of Breda and Dermot Reilly, Fairyhouse Road) who were **married** in Brazil on 16th December.

Christmas Day is a **blue** offering day.

There is an **online donation facility** on the Parish Website – www.ratoathparish.ie

Only those with tickets will be able to attend the Christmas Eve and Day Masses in person.

The church will be sanitized between all Masses and stewards will be on hand to ensure parishioners sit in their correct section (pod) and observe social distancing.

We are conscious that many people will be disappointed at not been able to attend in person but we are duty bound to adhere to the guidelines for the safety of all concerned.

On Christmas Eve we will **stream** the 5.00pm and 6.30pm Masses and on Christmas Day we will stream the 11.00am Mass. The link can be found in the parish website.

The few **remaining tickets** are available from the Parish Office.

Copies of Bishop Deenihan's **Christmas Message** are available at the back of the church.

20 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent	27 Dec	The Feast of the Holy Family
7.00pm	Raymond, Tennie & Paddy Brennan & the deceased members of the family John & Margaret Donnelly Ella Smyth Patrick & Collette Devenney	7.00pm	
9.00am	Jack & Elizabeth Ryan	9.00am	
11.00am	Pat Naughton Aubrey & Patrick McAuley & the deceased members of the McAuley & Carty families Charles & Elizabeth Keogh & the deceased members of the family June Barry	11.00am	Tom & Mary Gannon & the deceased members of the family
12.15pm	The deceased members of the Kinsella & Maher families Christine & Christy Redmond Rita Cusack Martin Kerrigan & Dick Donnelly Patricia, Ian & Eddie Smith	12.15pm	Paddy Kelly Anne Malone

Monday Mary Smith & Noel Walsh
Wednesday Carmel Campbell

Tuesday Sean Conheady
Thursday No morning Mass

A word for Christmas

These past few months have been difficult for everyone. We have seen the social and economic costs borne by our parishioners, the worry among the sick and those who care for them, the toll it has taken on our children and adults, the loneliness of the bereaved, and our shared concerns for the spiritual and mental health of many in our communities.

At the same time, we have witnessed your hope and resilience and have seen your genuine holiness and fidelity, particularly the joy of our parishioners in returning to Mass after periods of closure. The First Communions and Confirmations, the baptisms and weddings were celebrated in the most unexpected ways – beautiful occasions in otherwise challenging times.

With Christmas fast approaching, God wants to be with us and to offer us the joy and hope that his coming brings. This will be a Christmas like never before – but it will be Christmas nonetheless. We recognise that many will be disappointed and will be unable to attend the Christmas Eve and Day Masses. The restrictions on the numbers of people who can attend church are there for the safety of all and we are duty bound to follow the government guidelines.

We would like to thank all who assist us in the Parish during the year –our readers and their co-ordinators; ministers of Holy Communion and their co-ordinators; our liturgy committee; our parish safeguarding representatives; and those who participate in weekly Eucharistic adoration; our sacristans; the altar society and the church cleaners; those who helped to sanitize the church during the year and the stewards who assisted us in the past number of months.

We thank our cantors and choir director; our organists who kept the music going in trying times. Unfortunately it was not a year for choirs. We hope to see them back when it is safe to have them back. Again our baptismal meetings; “Do this in Memory of Me” programme and the Confirmation Preparation programme were unable to proceed this year.

We thank our grounds men Sean, James and Brian who look after the church grounds and the cemetery and Patsy and Maureen who work in the Parochial House and Parish Office.

We thank those who advise and assist us in the management and administration of the parish especially the Parish Finance Committee.

Thanks to Ratoath Garden Centre who donated the Christmas tree for our Church this year and all in the altar society who prepared and decorated the church for Christmas.

At our Masses over the Christmas season we remember in a special way our parishioners who lost a loved one in the past 12 months and we pray for our deceased parishioners.

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the couples who were married here during the year; to the boys and girls who were confirmed in August; to the children who received their Holy Communion in September and to all who were baptised during 2020.

We thank all involved in our four parish schools – conscious of the great work that was done to see that our schools are safe for pupils, staff and parents.

A warm welcome to those who are new to our community and we think too of all our parishioners who are away from home this Christmas.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the ways you have witnessed to your faith this year. We encourage you this Christmas to pray together, and we pray that infant Jesus will heal our wounds, soothe our fears, and remind us of the Good News that the Lord is with us. This is the source of our joy and our hope.

A new year awaits us and the hope of better days ahead.