



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

☎ 01-8256207 | ✉ ratoathparish@gmail.com | 💻 www.ratoathparish.ie

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

27th December 2020

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.

We welcome Cayden Crowley into the Christian community. He was **baptised** recently.

As we **return to Level 5 restrictions** public worship will not take place from 26th December.

From this week end onwards, we will stream the 11.00am Mass on Sundays.

The link can be found on the parish website www.ratoathparish.ie.

As previously, the intentions that were scheduled for a particular Mass at the weekend, will all be offered at the 11.00am streamed Mass, unless otherwise advised by families.

We will also stream the week morning Masses (Monday to Friday) at 9.45am.

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.

At level 5, baptisms may not take place. Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.

The number of guests allowed at weddings will remain at 25, but from the 2nd January the number of guests will be reduced to 6.

27 Dec	The Feast of the Holy Family	3 Jan	Second Sunday of Christmas
11.00am	Tom & Mary Gannon & the deceased members of the family Eileen & Mick Brady Paddy Kelly Anne Malone	11.00am	Steve Lynch (Month's Memory) Eileen & Michael Brady Ben Glynn Ellen Lynam Christy & Christina Rooney George Courtney & the deceased members of the family

Monday	Special Intentions (9.45am)	Tuesday	Wedding Mass (No morning Mass)
Wednesday	Deirdre Cusack Fairbrother (9.45am)		
Thursday	Deceased members of the Kennedy family (9.45am)		
Friday	Tom Murphy	Feast of Mary, Mother of God	
	Mass for the World Day of Peace (9.45am)		

This is the night foretold by the prophet Isaiah: “in the middle of the night a great light shone”.

Which of us has not felt at some time that our lives had become pitch-dark nights because of doubts about faith or the uncertainties of life or our ignorance about where we are going?

How consoling it is to think that on this very night, the light of Christmas shines forth converting night into day so that “the people who walk in darkness will see a great light”.

Let us also walk in the splendour of that light!

(St Oscar Romeo)

Open wide your door to the One who comes.

Open your heart and run to meet the Son of eternal light that illuminates all.

(St Ambrose)

We would like to thank all who assisted us in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses - sacristans, organists, musicians, singers, cantors, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, stewards, office staff and all who helped to make the ceremonies as meaningful as possible, given the constraints.

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

Excerpt of the message of Pope Francis for “The World Day of Peace”

1st January 2021 (Part One)

At the dawn of a new year, .. I offer my best wishes that the coming year will enable humanity to advance on the path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations.

The year 2020 was marked by the massive Covid-19 health crisis, which became a global phenomenon cutting across boundaries, aggravating deeply interrelated crises like those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, and causing great suffering and hardship. I think especially of all those who lost family members or loved ones, and all who lost their jobs. I think too of physicians and nurses, pharmacists, researchers, volunteers, chaplains and the personnel of hospitals and healthcare centres. They have made, and are continuing to make, great sacrifices to be present to the sick, to alleviate their sufferings and to save their lives; indeed, many of them have died in the process. In paying tribute to them, I renew my appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.

Sad to say, alongside all these testimonies of love and solidarity, we have also seen a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake.

These and other events that marked humanity’s path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. That is why I have chosen as the title of this year’s Message, *A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace* - A culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.....

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy were at the heart of charity as practised by the early Church. The first generation of Christians shared what they had, so that no one among them would be in need. They strove to make their community a welcoming home, concerned for every human need and ready to care for those most in need. It became customary to make voluntary offerings in order to feed the poor, bury the dead and care for orphans, the elderly and victims of disasters like shipwrecks. In later times, when the generosity of Christians had lost its initial fervour, some Fathers of the Church insisted that property was meant by God for the common good. For Saint Ambrose, “nature poured out all things for the common use of all... and thus produced a common right for all, but greed has made it a right for only a few”. After the persecutions of the first centuries, the Church used her newfound freedom to inspire society and its culture. “The needs of the times called forth new efforts in the service of Christian charity. History records innumerable examples of practical works of mercy... The Church’s work among the poor was to a great extent highly organized. There arose many institutions for the relief of every human need: hospitals, poor houses, orphanages, foundling homes, shelters for travellers ...”

The *diakonia* of the Church’s origins, enriched by the reflection of the Fathers and enlivened over the centuries by the active charity of many luminous witnesses to the faith, became the beating heart of the Church’s social doctrine commitment to promoting the dignity of each human person, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, the pursuit of the common good and concern for protection of creation.