



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

28th March 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.

Please pray for the **repose of the souls** of Margaret Keane (nee Ralph); Noel Martin (Well Road); Patrick Cleary (St Oliver's Park); Hubert Kearns (Mayo) father of Damian Kearns (Coill Beag) and Terry Culbert (Skibbereen & Swords) aunt of Nicola Kearns (Coill Beag) who died recently. May they rest in peace.

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.

Up to 10 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.

Next Sunday (Easter Sunday) is a **blue offering** day. 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.

Thanks to all who returned the **completed CHY4 forms** to the parish office. If you have not done so, we would be grateful if you could complete the form and return it to the office.

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.

You may wish to visit the church on Good Friday to pray at the foot of the Cross but please do not kiss the cross this year.

Irish Hospice Foundation – **Bereavement Support Line** 1800 80 70 77 Mon – Fri 10 am to 1pm.

Irish Hospice Foundation are running #WeReflect campaign to highlight the service and are hoping to reach those who need care in grief the most right now. The Line is for anyone grieving in these exceptional times; they may be grieving a COVID-19 death, a death from other causes or maybe a previous loss is feeling particularly difficult right now. We are here to listen and support those struggling with loss. Visit <https://hospicefoundation.ie/our-supports-services/bereavement-loss-hub/bereavement-support-line-old/bereavement-support-line-promotional-assets/>

28 Mar	Palm Sunday	4 April	Easter Sunday
11.00am	Raymond Murphy Thomas & Tommy Everard Vincent McGowan Una & Cyril Brennan Kathy Kehoe Oliver Carthy	11.00am	Mass offered for the intentions of the People of the Parish

Monday

Bill Mannering

Tuesday

John Hamilton

Reflection on the Gospel for Palm Sunday

from Intercom

Our opening reading from St Mark's gospel captures the elation of the crowd who welcome Jesus in Jerusalem. They spread the greenery in the road in front of him, they lift their voices in praise, singing "Hosanna, blessing on him who come in the name of the Lord". But their hope and loyalty is short lived, as we discover in our reading of the Passion.

Jesus is left almost alone to face humiliation and death. His followers have heard his radical message of reversal and upheaval, but when it comes down to it the challenge is too much. We are told "they all deserted him and ran away". While Peter follows Jesus at a distance, he is soon denying he ever knows him. Soon, the crowds are shouting for Jesus to be crucified.

We are very familiar with the Passion gospel and it can be tempting to allow ourselves to tune out, particularly when it comes to the unpleasant parts. We do not like to think of ourselves as part of the mob shouting "Crucify him". Yet if we enter fully into the experience, we can see ourselves in the story. When things are going well, it is easy to praise God and shout "Hosanna" and promise not to lose faith. There are other times we fall asleep, become complacent. And then there are days when we struggle, when we are confused or do not know what God expects of us or whether we are able to handle the difficult times. We pull away from God. The different disciples display this range of human emotions and reactions.

This week, Holy Week, we are the disciples walking with Jesus on a journey that leads to the cross. And yet, here at the cross, we find Mary of Magdalene and the other female disciples and Joseph of Arimathea. We know the story is not over for these disciples, or for Peter and the others. The journey of discipleship is just beginning.

Holy Week Ceremonies from Holy Trinity Church

The following ceremonies will be **streamed** and the link, as usual, be found on the parish website www.ratoathparish.ie.

Palm Sunday Mass at 11.00am

Monday; Tuesday and Wednesday morning Mass streamed at 9.45am

On **Holy Thursday**, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be streamed at 8.00pm

On **Good Friday**, the Stations of the Cross will be streamed at 3.00pm and the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord will be streamed at 8.00pm

On **Holy Saturday**, the Easter Vigil will be streamed at 8.00pm

Confessions during Holy Week

Wednesday during Eucharistic Adoration from 3.00pm to 4.00pm and on Good Friday during Eucharistic Adoration from 4.00pm to 5.00pm and on Holy Saturday from 11.00am to 11.30am

On Wednesday next we will have **Eucharistic Adoration** from **2.00pm to 5.00pm** and on Good Friday we will have **Eucharistic Adoration** from **4.00pm to 5.00pm**. The Stations of the Cross will be streamed at 3.00pm

Reflection for Holy Week

from the last Cardinal O'Connor of New York

As we enter into Holy Week, let us be reminded that this is not a pageant, this is not a stage show, this is not simply a memorial of something that took place about 2,000 years ago. The purpose of the liturgy is to make present those same events that occurred historically once but are now living here among us.

Our divine Lord spiritually and mysteriously is present once again in the power generated by his sufferings that began in a special way on Palm Sunday and then continued through the holiest week in history.

All of our Holy Week observances must be relieved together with Christ if we are to find meaning in the suffering, death and resurrection.