



# Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

19<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm

We welcome Kruz Saunders Morrissey, Cadhla Aherne, Erin Cusack, Sophia Belcher, Jack Dillon, Evie Dillon and Jayda McDonnell into the Christian community. They were **baptised** recently.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul** of Thomas Bonnie (Steeplechase Court) who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

We welcome the boys and girls from Second Class to their last **“Do This in Memory of Me”** Mass in preparation for their First Communion in May. We welcome their parents who are supporting them on their faith journey this year.

We encourage all to make an effort during **Lent for prayer** by visiting the Blessed Sacrament for a period of time during Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 7.00pm in the family room of the church.

The **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent after the 9.45am Mass

## Trocaire -annual Lenten appeal

This year’s Trócaire Box will tell the story of one Somali family who are struggling to survive. Ambiyo, her husband Mahat, and their eight young children are among hundreds of thousands of Somalis forced to flee their homes due to a fourth consecutive year of drought which has ravaged the country.

After their crops failed and the last of their goats died their only option was to leave or stay and face starvation and death. After walking for three days, they arrived at a camp for displaced people with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Trócaire runs all of the health services in the Gedo district of Somalia. In recent months the number of young children presenting with malnutrition has trebled, and there is growing pressure on the services. “This is the work that the generosity of the Irish people supports,” said Caoimhe de Barra.

**Young Adult Retreat:** March 31 - April 2 (Fri eve - Palm Sun afternoon) takes place in Dalgan Park, Navan. 'With waving Palm branches let us adore the Lord as he comes'. A great preparation for the holiest time in the Church Year. Cost: Donation (full board, own room).

Contact: Sr Úna 090 6481666 or email: [youthretreats@gmail.com](mailto:youthretreats@gmail.com)

19 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	25 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent
7.00pm	David Donoghue (Month’s Memory) Maire Lattin	7.00pm	Bill Eiffe Eileen, James, Patrick & Margaret Woods
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Joe & Lauri Kelly Kathleen & Owen Kehoe	11.00am	Brendan, Margaret Paul McDermott & the deceased members of the Reilly family
12.15pm	Vincent McAuley Leigha McKeon Noel Duggan Mary Foy Patrick Cleary	12.15pm	Noel Martin Dick & Chris Donnelly

Monday

Jimmy Landy

## A Mother's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of mothers. May these bearers of life also be bearers of your Word. May they teach and train up their children in the way they should go, so when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

Even when the children are already grown, help mothers to sow the seeds that will bear the Fruit of Your Spirit. Just as a mother's work is never done, and her prayers for her children will never end. A piece of her heart is always with them.

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### A reflection on the fundamental message of Pope Francis' pontificate to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his papacy by Andrea Torielli

A Church that goes forth and "takes the initiative", because she has first experienced the Lord's initiative and was "preceded in love".

Ten years after the election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 13 March 2013, it's worth going back to the essentials. It is worth remembering what Pope Francis himself continues to propose and bear witness to: the face of a Church which, as we read in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "knows how to take the first step, to boldly take the initiative, to go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, to stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast", and "has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy."

Pope Francis offers the face of Christian communities which are free from the scourge of self-reference, which are aware that they can be truly missionary only when they reflect the light of their Lord without ever considering themselves a source of light.

These communities never resort to marketing and proselytizing techniques, and are free from the nostalgic pessimism of those who long for a "Christianity" that no longer exists. They are communities of "forgiven sinners" – as the Bishop of Rome says of himself - which, while continuing to experience God's infinite mercy, shares it with others like a reverberation.

"Mercy" is indeed the word that best summarizes the magisterium of the Argentine Pope as he enters the second decade of his pontificate. It is the key message of Jesus in the Gospel. It is the awareness of being continually loved and picked up after every fall. It is the key to mission in our changing age.

As we read again in *Evangelii Gaudium*, the "evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

This community is willing to welcome, listen, accompany, that is, to "get involved", as Jesus did with His disciples when kneeling down to wash their feet. It is a patient community, which does not need enemies to find its consistency, but "cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds."

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Do you know people who would like an opportunity to practise their English language skills in a supportive environment? It could be colleagues in work, grandparents who are looking after children, neighbours, or simply anyone for whom English is not their first language and who are interested in speaking English with others. **A new Conversational English Class is beginning in The Venue/Community Centre** in Ratoath on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. It will run on Wednesdays from 7pm to 9pm during the school term. Volunteer tutors will support participants in giving them a chance to speak and write in English. A €2 contribution per class towards providing tea/coffee and photocopying is requested. This is a chance to meet people with a shared interest in improving their English language skills. If anyone has tried to learn a foreign language, they will know that there is a difference between reading words on a page and having the confidence to say them out loud in a public setting. You can come along on the night (the first class is free). For further information, contact Noel at 0469093120 / 0892487364 / [outreach@cultur.ie](mailto:outreach@cultur.ie)