



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

12th December 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

We welcome George Lipzynski and Gio Stone into the Christian community. They were **baptised** recently.

Please **pray for the repose of the souls** of Serghei Buga (Steeplechase Green); Martin (Ben) Duncan (Coill Beag) and Carmel McGovern (Clontarf), mother of Brian McGovern (Clonkeen) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

Confessions for Christmas: On Saturday next 18th December from 11.30am to 12.30pm and after morning Mass (9.45am) on Friday 17th December and Tuesday 21st December.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in the Parish Office.

On 6th December €1,930 lodged to the Development Fund (**White envelopes**) and €935 lodged to the **blue envelope** account. **Standing Orders** for November €3,535.57
Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

The **annual Ratoath St Vincent de Paul church gate collection** takes place this weekend, the 11th and 12th December. The Ratoath SVP conference appreciates your continuous kind generosity.

Trocaire's 'Christmas Gifts of Love' to support communities in crisis

Trocaire's 'Gifts of Love' give people an opportunity to buy a meaningful present to help displaced people and those in war-torn countries, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable communities who have suffered conflict, the devastating impacts of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. New Gifts of Love in this year's collection include water filters (€40) and emergency water supply (€20) to support communities in developing countries hit by ongoing drought; dignity packs to help young girls out of period poverty (€10) and mental health support for women and children traumatised by the ongoing conflict in Gaza (€50).

12 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent	19 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Owen Murray	7.00pm	Aubrey & Patrick McAuley & the deceased members of the McAuley & Carthy families John & Margaret Donnelly & Ella Smyth Tinney, Paddy & Raymond Brennan & the deceased members of the family
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Ben & Vonnie Cullen Frank Goodman Paddy, Bridie, Nancy & Pat Mulvaney John McEnroe	11.00am	Tom McGoldrick Bridget & Joseph Gallagher McFrederick Family Joe & Eileen Fernandes
12.15pm	Angela Walsh	12.15pm	Sheila Naughton (Month's Memory) and her husband Pat Martin Kerrigan Des Malin

Monday

Collette Healy

Wednesday

Margaret Ward

**From the address of Pope Francis on his visit to refugees at the
“Reception and Identification Centre” in Mytilene on Sunday last.**

Sisters, brothers, I am here again to meet you. I am here to tell you that I am close to you, and to say it from the heart. I am here to see your faces, to look you in the eye. Eyes full of fear and expectation, eyes that have seen violence and poverty, eyes furrowed by too many tears..

The pandemic has affected us globally, it has made us all feel in the same boat, it has made us feel what it means to have the same fears. We have understood that the big issues must be tackled together, because in today's world fragmented solutions are inadequate.

But while vaccinations are being laboriously carried out on a planetary level and something, despite many delays and uncertainties, seems to be moving in the fight against climate change, everything seems to be terribly lacking with regard to migration. Yet there are people at stake, human lives! Everyone's future is at stake, which will be serene only if it is integrated.

Sisters, brothers, your faces, your eyes ask us not to look the other way, not to deny the humanity that unites us, to make your stories our own and not to forget your dramas...

On this Sunday, I pray to God to awaken us from forgetfulness for those who suffer, to shake us from the individualism that excludes, to awaken deaf hearts to the needs of our neighbour.

And I also pray to man, every man: let us overcome the paralysis of fear, the indifference that kills, the cynical disinterest that with velvet gloves condemns to death those on the margins!

Five years have passed since the visit made here..

After all this time we see that on the migration issue little has changed. Certainly, many have committed themselves to welcoming and integrating, and I would like to thank the many volunteers and all those at every level – institutional, social, charitable, political – who have undertaken great efforts, taking care of people and the migration issue. ..

But we must bitterly admit that this country, like others, is still cornered and that in Europe there are those who persist in treating the problem as a business that does not concern them. This is tragic.

Above all, if we want to start again, we look at the faces of children. Let us find the courage to be ashamed before them, who are innocent and are the future. They challenge our consciences and ask us: "What world do you want to give us?" We do not rush away from the raw images of their small bodies lying inert on the beaches. The Mediterranean, which for millennia has united different peoples and distant lands, is becoming a cold cemetery without tombstones.

This great basin of water, cradle of so many civilizations, now looks like a mirror of death. Brothers and sisters, I beg you, let us stop this *shipwreck of civilization*!

Christmas Mass Times

A statement from the Department of An Taoiseach this week confirmed that religious services in places of worship are unchanged regarding capacity, with all the other protective measures in place to ensure the safety of the congregation.

Unless there is a change on the current regulations, the following is our schedule of Mass times for Christmas Eve/Day

Christmas Eve 4.00pm; 5.30pm; 7.00pm; 8.30pm.

Christmas Day 9.00am; 11.00am; 12.15pm

Tickets will not be needed for Masses at Christmas this year.