



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

10th March 2024

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul** of Sheila Quinlan, Galbally, Co. Limerick, mother of Margaret Carroll (The Old Mill) who died during the week. May she rest in peace.

There will be no 12.15pm Mass on **St Patrick's Day**.

White Envelope Collection (Development Fund) €2,277.04 and **Blue Envelopes** €1,577.00
Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Synod feedback invitation. A series of meetings is planned for the coming weeks across the diocese to offer feedback on the Synod which was held in Rome last October and to offer an opportunity for further discernment on the synodal process which will inform the preparations for the Synod in Rome next October. The meeting for our area is in **Ashbourne Parish Hall, Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm** and will be facilitated by the Meath Diocesan Synodal Team. It would be helpful to have some familiarity with the document issued following the Synod last October called *Towards the 2024 Assembly* available on www.synod.va. All are welcome to attend.

Light the Fire 2024 – The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal invite you to join us in Slane on St. Patrick's Day. 5:00 pm Vespers on the Hill of Slane and Rosary procession to the Church; 6:00 pm Mass in St Patrick's Church followed by Eucharistic Adoration.
Event details: www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony or 041 983 0441.

Meath Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will travel on September 10th and will be led by Bishop Deenihan. The diocesan choir will accompany the pilgrimage. All pilgrims will be accommodated in hotels and there are 4, 5 and 6 night options with fares starting at €769 with various hotels available. Further information and booking forms are available from Joe Walsh Tours, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin. www.joewalshstours.ie Tel.: 01 2410800

Legion of Mary meets every Saturday at 8.00pm in the Parish Pastoral Centre. New members are always welcome. For more information, please call May Tuite on 087 1334872

10 Mar	Fourth Sunday of Lent	17 Mar	St Patrick's Day
7.00pm	Eileen, Margaret, James & Patrick Woods Dickie Sweeney	7.00pm	Paul Sherwin & the deceased members of the Sherwin family
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Kay & Brendan Menton	11.00am	Michael Oliver Judge (Month's Memory) Caoimhe Hughes
12.15pm	Chriss & Dick Donnelly Seamus Ennis & the deceased members of the Ennis family Irene Dunne	12.15pm	No 12.15pm Mass

Monday	Birthday remembrance for Deirdre Cusack
Tuesday	Patrick Wheeler
Wednesday	Jim, Elizabeth, Agnes & Christopher Lawlor & Christine Wims.
Thursday	Douglas & Gretta Pykett and Kathleen Donnelly

Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2024

This year Trócaire's Lenten Campaign focus country is Malawi. Malawi is a country with extremely high levels of poverty. Parents cannot afford basic food to give their children, and inflation means that prices are rocketing. Infrastructure is very basic and electricity blackouts can last for weeks. Families are already finding it difficult to live but the unpredictability of climate change is making things dramatically worse. 18 of Malawi's 28 districts are prone to disaster due to climate change, with recurrent drought, flooding and landslides.

Trocaire is working with local partners to make a difference to families caught in the grip of poverty. You can make a huge difference to already vulnerable communities who are facing the devastation effects of climate change, by supporting Trocaire's Lenten campaign.

We ask you to take home a Trocaire box for Lent to support the going work of Trocaire.

Statement of the Irish Bishops appealing for peace in Gaza

As the Catholic Bishops of Ireland, we echo Pope Francis' heartfelt appeal for a complete ceasefire in Gaza – 'Enough, please! Let us all say it: enough...Stop!'

Stop the War! In saying this, we join with many in our parishes, together with all people of goodwill, in demanding an immediate end to the daily horror of killing, wounding and destruction of property and infrastructure there.

We call on the Israeli government to comply with basic human and international standards in ensuring that Palestinians have full and unimpeded access to food, water and basic safety requirements. At the same time, we call on Hamas to release all hostages and to end missile attacks on Israel. Equally, the attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, which do not command as much attention in the public sphere, are also to be condemned. What is happening in this region cannot be morally justified.

The current aggression is not a war between Jews and Arabs; people of all faiths, including many of the Jewish tradition, oppose what is happening and the effect it is having not only on Israel and Palestine but throughout the wider Middle East and further afield.

There is no future in the perpetuation of conflict and human suffering. This is especially so when one considers the intensity of what is happening in the Holy Land. The only future is one of dialogue and the putting in place of a sustainable plan for a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis and that brings to an end the occupation that has for far too long denied Palestinians their rights and freedoms.

International efforts to secure a ceasefire are welcome. However, as the death toll continues to rise all possible pressure should be applied to prevail upon Israel to desist from military operations that impact so horrendously on innocent civilians. Equally, any international support for Hamas terrorism is utterly unacceptable. The international community has failed to vindicate the right of the Palestinian people to a safe homeland, with statehood and freedom of movement, as part of a two-state solution which recognises both Israel and Palestine.

In this Season of Lent, we Christians prepare for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection, as Muslims prepare for the Season of Ramadan and Jews prepare for the celebration of Passover. We urge people to continue praying and fasting for the intention of peace. In praying for peace in the land of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we remember in a special way the small but vibrant Christian communities in Palestine. An ideal way of showing solidarity at this time is to support Trócaire's Gaza appeal on <https://www.trocaire.org/>.

We implore Almighty God and Jesus, who is the Light of the world, to shine a light into the terrible darkness that envelops the region that we call the Holy Land. In the face of despair, we renew our prayers for a just and lasting peace that respects justice and the dignity of all peoples.