



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

18th June 2023

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm

We welcome Lylah Coughlon Ted Creagh, and Arlo Baggett into the Christian Community. They were **baptised** recently.

Standing Orders for May €3,491.71

Blue Envelope collection €3,183.50 and **White Envelope** collection (Development Fund) €982.90

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

There will be **no 12.15pm Mass** on Sundays in the months of July and August.

The 12.15pm Mass will resume on Sunday 3rd September.

Congratulations to Fr Paul Connell, a priest of the Diocese of Meath who will be ordained Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois this Sunday afternoon in St Mel's Cathedral, Longford. We wish Bishop Elect Paul every good wish and offer him our prayers as he begins his new ministry as bishop.

Young Adult Retreat: (18-40 yrs) in Dalgan Park, Navan from 30th June – 2nd July (Fri eve - Sun, afternoon) Theme: "Serve the Lord with gladness"! A great opportunity to join with other young people in prayer and friendship, in listening to talks and in peaceful walks through lovely grounds.

Holy Mass celebrated in joy together and an opportunity for confession and spiritual direction.

Cost is donation (full board, own room) Contact: Sr Úna 090 6481666 or email :

youthretreats@gmail.com

Dates for Diary 2024

Confirmation

Friday 9th February

First Communion

Ratoath Junior National School

Saturday 11th May

St. Paul's National School

Saturday 18th May

Rathbeggan National School

Saturday 25th May

Times to be decided at a later date, but for now save the date

18 June	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	25 June	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.00pm	Mick, Annie & Bobby Walls The Deceased members of the Doran Family. May Hessman	7.00pm	Michael, Elizabeth, and John Mulvaney Angelo & Michael O'Hare Sean & Maureen Mullen Brendan & Eileen Boylan Edna O' Gorman
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Sinead Freeman	11.00am	Vincent Mulrooney (Months Memory) Christy, & Christina Rooney Kathleen Kenny Cathal Dunlop
12.15pm	Rose Hickey & deceased members of the family Michael Gibson Marie Reilly	12.15pm	Laura, David & Betty Colfer

Wednesday

Special Intention & Mary & James O'Neill

June 21st Mid-Summer's Day - A Reflection

On Mid summer's day darkness will be limited to just a few hours at night time. We are sometimes afraid and fear the dark. This is not something new. It stretches back thousands of years. It is true that God loves light but it is also true that God loves light but it's also true that loves darkness as well. In the book of Exodus we are told that the people stood at a distance while Moses drew near to the darkness where God was.

Life is a mixture of light and darkness for all of us. We flourish and thrive when are in the light and we often struggle in the dark. But from God's point of view, God is with us in the light but also in darkness too. So no matter how dark, sad, dreary or depressing our lives may be at times, our heart-felt belief is that somehow God is present in these as well. *(From A Year to Remember)*

Message for Day for Life this Sunday 18th June on the theme: 'Listen to Her'

The annual Day for Life will be celebrated this Sunday 18th June. Its short message, *Listen to Her*, is being promoted in Ireland, Scotland and in England and Wales and focuses on the experience of one Catholic woman "Jane" in the aftermath of abortion. Jane's compelling story recounts her journey towards healing and the role of 'Rachel's Vineyard', a healing ministry that provides support for those who are suffering after abortion. The hope is that Jane's story will help people to listen, to understand and to respond with compassion. Her story can be found in www.councilforlife.ie

To complement Day for Life 2023, Pope Francis has provided a short message of encouragement wherein he prays for all expectant mothers and their families.

In listening to Mary, our Mother, and following her example, Pope Francis invites us to discover our personal call from God who is the source of our existence, reminding us that, "Each human being is called by God to enjoy the fullness of life; and, is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Every threat to human dignity and life cannot but have an effect on her heart, on her maternal 'womb'. To defend life is not an ideology for the Church. It is a reality; a human reality which involves all Christians, precisely because they are Christian and because they are human". (General Audience, 25 March 2020).

Bishops' Drugs Initiative: criminalisation approach to drugs policy is ineffective

The Irish Bishop's Drugs Initiative (IBDI), along with the Family Addiction Support Network (FASN), have made a submission to the ongoing Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use. This Citizen's Assembly was established to consider the legislative, policy and operational changes that could be made in Ireland to reduce the harmful impacts of illicit drugs on individuals, families, communities, and wider Irish society.

The joint submission outlines its belief that the current criminalisation approach to drug policy has been ineffective in addressing drug use and its associated harms. Drug use should be addressed as a social and health issue rather than a justice issue. Research shows that decriminalisation does not increase drug use and other crime. The social cost to the individual is much reduced including future employment prospects.

The IBDI and FASN are completely opposed to the legalisation of drugs and believe that such a move, considering the social, psychological, and physical effects of drugs, would be disastrous for public health and for communities across the island.

The submission also calls for the provision of peer-led family support groups, the inclusion of families in the development of all services and policies, and for substantial investment in drug projects and family supports to help protect future generations from the negative and harmful effects of drug use.