



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

5th December 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

Congratulations to Katie Kinsella and Ciaran Hayes who were **married** recently.

Please **pray for the repose of the soul** of Eamonn Coyne who died during the week.
May he rest in peace.

Wednesday is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**.

The Masses for the feast day will be at 11.00am and 7.00pm

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in the Parish Office

“When we speak about wisdom, we are speaking about Christ

When we speak about virtue, we are speaking about Christ

When we speak about justice, we are speaking about Christ

When we speak about peace, we are speaking about Christ

When we speak about truth, life and redemption, we are speaking about Christ”

(St Ambrose whose feast day is on Tuesday 7th December)

The intention of Pope Francis for December is praying “for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace.”

Advent Candles

Four little candles sit in a ring; three of them purple; one of them pink.

Each of them has its own special meaning; the glow of their light has a message to bring.

The first is of hope for the road ahead; the second of faith about what has been said

The third tells of joy about what is to come; the fourth speaks of peace for everyone.

Four little candles sit in a ring; Rejoice in the Christmas message they bring.

5 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent	12 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent
7.00pm	Patsy & Christy Smith Ann & Frank O'Reilly Alan Rafferty	7.00pm	Owen Murray
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Richard King & Brigid Wall The deceased members of the Glynn & Kavanagh families	11.00am	Ben & Vonnie Cullen Frank Goodman Paddy, Bridie, Nancy & Pat Mulvaney
12.15pm	Steve Lynch Sean Eiffe Joe Keogh Margaret, Brendan & Paul McDermott	12.15pm	John McEnroe Angela Walsh

Monday	Joe Burns & the deceased members of the family & Special Intentions
Wednesday	Christy & Kathleen Martin & the deceased members of the family (11.00am)
Thursday	Special Intention

The **annual Ratoath St Vincent de Paul church gate collection** takes place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December. The Ratoath SVP conference appreciates your continuous kind generosity.

In launching its Annual Appeal, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) said that calls for help this year will be at their highest level in its history and could reach almost 200,000 by the end of December. National President Rose McGowan said the fact that the Society has received more calls for help nationally than at any other time in its history and still managed to provide help is testimony to the dedication of its volunteers and staff and the incredible support of the Irish public.

“We are once again appealing to the nation to help us assist the thousands of people who are struggling on inadequate incomes,” she said.

The SVP Annual Appeal theme ‘Impossible Choices’ has again been chosen to reflect what those struggling financially face every day.

Earlier this year SVP commissioned a RED C Poll to ascertain the financial impact of Covid. It found that a significant proportion of Irish society is facing a multitude of financial pressures due to the pandemic. These include; loss of income, increased household expenditure on basics, erosion of savings to meet ordinary living expenses, falling behind on bills and being forced to cut back on essentials like food, heating and electricity. One-in-four people reported cutting back on food and utilities due to pandemic, and almost one-in-ten tenants reported falling behind on their rent.

Rose McGowan said that since then the situation for those struggling financially has worsened with massive increases in energy costs and living expenses.

“We are facing a perfect storm for families contending with a cost-of-living crisis on multiple fronts. Energy prices are soaring, we are seeing rents rise well beyond what people can afford and increasing transport costs are also putting pressure on low-income households.

In those circumstances they will inevitably turn to SVP for help. Need is the only criteria we apply when people seek our help. But to provide that help we need the generous support of the Irish public that we are seeking through this 2021 Annual Appeal”.

Excerpt from the message of the Irish Bishops for the Season of Advent

We have now begun our Advent journey, a time of patient waiting and joyful hope. We look forward to the celebration of Christmas with quiet expectation and turn our hearts to the Lord with confidence and trust. Although the Covid-19 pandemic continues, there are many reasons to be both thankful and hopeful. We are grateful to all who have worked tirelessly to protect our health and have cared for those who have fallen ill. We welcome and encourage the ongoing programme of vaccination....

We are thankful too for the continuing commitment of so many in our parishes to ensuring that our churches remain safe places where people can gather in confidence to worship. .

The coming of Christ that we celebrate at Christmas brought light into a darkened world, ‘a light that darkness could not overpower’. In the dark days of the pandemic, we can be bearers of that light, bringing it into the lives of those who may be living in the shadow of sickness, poverty, homelessness or isolation.

We best express our thankfulness through personal thoughtfulness and kindness, and support given to organisations which do so much to help those in need. We urge people to respond generously to the Christmas appeals of Trócaire, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Crosscare and other charities which bring hope into the lives of many people.

Through the coming days of Advent may our hearts be open to the grace and power of the Lord and filled with joy when we celebrate His birth.