



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

17th January 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 10.00pm. Suspended

Holy Hour in the Nursing Home chapel on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. Suspended.

Please pray for the **repose of the souls** of Susan O'Driscoll (St Oliver's Park); Heather Dosunmu (Stonebridge); Michael Walsh (Glasnevin), father of Yvonne Fitzgerald (Glascarn Lane) and John Campbell (Cork) brother of Anne O'Connor- Nulty (Meadowbank Hill) who died during the week. May they rest in peace.

The **Parish Office** will remain closed in these weeks. You may email or phone the office to book Masses, organise certs etc. Messages etc can be left in the letter box at the office. Fr Gerry and Fr Yohanna will be available at all times for those who wish to see a priest.

The Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you are already there and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit myself to be separated from you.

In **Level 5 restrictions** public worship will not take place. The 11.00am Mass on Sundays will be streamed. The link can be found on the parish website www.ratoathparish.ie.

As previously, the intentions that were scheduled for a particular Mass at the weekend, will all be offered at the 11.00am streamed Mass, unless otherwise advised by families.

The week morning Masses (Monday to Friday) at 9.45am will also be streamed.

On the weekdays, the church will remain closed until after the morning Mass and will be open at approximately 10.15am for private prayer during the day.

At level 5, baptisms may not take place. Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th -25th January)

"Abide in my love....you shall bear much fruit" is the theme of this year's prayer for Christian unity. We pray in this week for the fruits of a closer communion with all Christians, that all may be living witnesses to our common baptism.

17 Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	24 Jan	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00am	Frank Goodman (Month's Memory) Dermot Gallagher Tiny Gorman Tommy & Bridie Dolan Winnie & Pud Mahon Pat & Mary Reilly	11.00am	Michael, Mary, Brian & John Brazil Pud O'Neill Anthony Lawlor & the deceased members of the family Dorothea Mates Caroline Hynes Christy Crowley Esme & Bernard Browne Ted & Peg Gannon & Jemmy Boyle Noel Walshe

Monday	Cillian Deegan & the deceased members of the family; Michael McGrath & Andrew Johnson
Tuesday	The deceased members of the Hackett, Dempsey, Donovan, Sheeran & McLoughlin families
Thursday	Sean & Fran Fitzgerald
Wednesday	Mary Corcoran
Friday	Eileen Duffley

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel - "Come and See"

There is a Brazilian proverb used when a visitor is leaving one's home: "whoever drinks of this water keeps coming back".

Offering a beverage such as a cup of water or tea is a universal gesture of welcome and hospitality.

Today we hear how Jesus invites two of his disciples to "come and see" where he lives.

He welcomes them into his home and they stay with him for the rest of the day, undoubtedly eating and drinking and conversing with him.

Jesus' invitation is simple, yet intimate. We don't know where he lived or what his living arrangements were, but we know he wanted his friends to spend time with him and get to know him.

This precious early time with Jesus must have set his friends up for a lifetime of discipleship.

We too are invited to "come and see", to spend time with the Scriptures and in prayer to get to know Jesus. He welcomes us with open arms.

As we reflect on the inviting love of Jesus, we are also encouraged to extend a warm welcome to others in a spirit of friendship.

Pope Francis has often spoken of our responsibility, as individuals, communities and church, to welcome everyone – including those who are homeless or who are forced to leave home or country.

Our welcome is a response to the Lord's supreme commandment to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves. We all have opportunities to do this in our communities.

"Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identified with the welcomed and the rejected strangers of every age" (Pope Francis)

Excerpt of the Statement by Bishop Tom Deenihan on the publication of the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

Yesterday's publication of the report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in our country casts a necessary light into a painful episode in our social history. This report covers two such institutions in the Diocese of Meath, one in Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath and one in Dunboyne, Co Meath. What I have read in the report is a cause of great sadness. I know that those sentiments will be shared by many throughout the diocese and country.

In too many cases, the experience of those who resided in institutions, which were managed by religious congregations and State funded, is a cause of shock and shame. The brave testimonies of those who entered seeking care but who subsequently endured emotional suffering are bleak and shameful. Like others, I found the details of the high infant mortality very distressing.

While a lack of resources and an intense social poverty go some way towards contextualising the period of this report, the lack of kindness and compassion, as identified by the Commission, is also clear. When Church, state and society lose respect for the individual and forget that we are made in the image and likeness of God, dignity is forgotten and human life is not valued. Like many others, I am saddened and shamed by this report.

I have met with individuals who were either resident or born in these institutions. In addition to what for many were the unacceptable conditions and the inadequate assistance received, they have been unfairly burdened with an unwarranted but enduring sense of shame. There is also a tendency to forget that every child who was born in these homes had a father and that many of the women who gave birth there conceived in tragic or violent circumstances. The report acknowledges this clearly. In many instances, the experiences of these women have been so painful as to prevent them from ever sharing their story with their families. It is a wound that they bear silently. That is profoundly sad and we have an obligation to do what we can to lift this burden.....

While we look back at the failures in the religious institutions that existed in our country at that time, we must also cast a critical eye on the structures of today to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not replicated. The personal stories contained in the report speak powerfully and starkly to our world today. Let us not repeat the errors, failings and sins of the past which have been highlighted and, above all, let us remember and value the dignity of each human person.