



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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

5th June 2022

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

There will be no 12.15pm Mass for the months of July and August.
The Sunday Mass at 12.15pm will resume on Sunday 4th September.

Next Sunday (Trinity Sunday) is a **blue offering** day.

Prayer for the Feast of Pentecost

Today, O Lord, through the mystery of Pentecost, you sanctify your Church in every place and nation. Pour out the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon the whole world, and bring to completion in the hearts of your faithful the work of love which you begun with your first proclamation of the kingdom, who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

The Intentions of Pope Francis for the month of June

For families: we pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

Prayer of St Columba (Colum Cille) – Feast Day 9th June

O Lord, grant us that love which can never die, which will enkindle our lamps but not extinguish them, so that they may shine in us and bring light to others.

Most dear Saviour, enkindle our lamps so that they may shine forever in your temple.

May we receive unquenchable light from you so that our darkness will be illuminated and the darkness of the world will be made less. Amen.

Universal Synod 2021-2023

Following the engagement by so many people across the Diocese, the diocesan synthesis has been completed and will now be submitted to the National Steering Committee. The synthesis can be viewed on www.dioceseofmeath.ie Thanks to all who took part in the synodal conversations during Lent and to all who completed questionnaires and made submissions.

Over the next few weeks we will put extracts of the synthesis on the parish newsletter.

5 June	Pentecost Sunday	12 June	Feast of the Holy Trinity
7.00pm	Brendan & Eileen Boylan Edna O’Gorman	7.00pm	Thomas, Kathleen & Martin Madden Bobby, Michael & Annie Walls The deceased members of the Doran Family May Hessman
9.00am		9.00am	
11.00am	Carmel & Edward McAuley	11.00am	
12.15pm	Paddy & Mary Walsh & the deceased members of the Walsh & Nulty families	12.15pm	John Purcell & the deceased members of the family

Monday
Friday

Bank Holiday Mass at 9.45am
Karen Hanley

Excerpt from the Synodal Synthesis for the Diocese of Meath (part one)

Over 1,600 people participated in synodal meetings. 276 completed questionnaires were returned by people who participated in a meeting in their deanery. 166 completed questionnaires were returned by people who had not participated in an organised meeting. ... In addition to the completed questionnaires, syntheses of synodal conversations were received from a meeting of young people in the 18- 25 years age bracket, from three prayer and apostolic groups, and from one parish.

The diocesan delegates have been heartened by the positive engagement by so many people in the process, and by the generosity and calibre of those who came forward in each of the deaneries to organise and conduct the process. Those who participated in the meetings seemed to find joy in so doing. Some commented that it was the first time that they had been asked for their opinion in the Church and hoped that similar opportunities would be offered in the future. Others remarked that it was heartening to share their faith experience with others and were humbled by the faith experience shared by others. The lack of engagement by some parishes is disappointing. Also disappointing is the extremely small number of people who participated when taken in the context of the overall population of the Diocese.

I. COMMUNION: Experiencing shared faith, companionship, and togetherness

The celebration of the Mass is at the heart of how many experience a high level of togetherness, shared faith, companionship, and friendship in their parish. However, many also commented that a close sense of belonging was missing in the Church at present. Many respondents do not experience a sense of communion at all. They go to Mass occasionally and leave without speaking to others, and are unaware of any outreach structures. Some have experienced a poor sense of welcome....

Mass is seen as a primary opportunity to connect, but overwhelmingly a desire was expressed for other opportunities to enable people to connect on a human and spiritual level. ...It was expressed that a lack of joy and active participation was often missing at Mass with language often too highbrow and no opportunity to join in the liturgical music.

“Look at people’s faces at Mass, do they look as if they are celebrating? What’s wrong?”

A desire for greater congregational singing was expressed. “Put up the words of hymns on a projector or on sheets so people can join in”.

For a lot of respondents being participants in activities within the church gave them a strong sense of communion thus making the areas of communion and participation inextricably linked. Participation brought a sense of communion and practical faith-sharing like nothing else. Many respondents want to encourage more involvement of lay people in the Church, expressing the view that an authentic partnership between lay people and clergy is needed for a true synodal process to emerge.

Positive practical suggestions for inclusion were:

- Create a welcome leaflet with contact information for new parishioners. “There is so much good to be tapped into. The Church’s greatest resource is its people”.
- Hospitality ministry to be considered equally as important as Ministry of the Word etc.
- Calling people by name to become involved. The personal approach is important.
 - Be creative to encourage younger people and parents, e.g. trips, drama, and music in a faith-based context.
- Facilitate parents of children receiving sacraments to come together and develop their own faith parallel to their children’s faith journey.
- Visitation of homes by priests supported by lay people.
- Use of inclusive language in the liturgy and alternative languages (Irish and Polish were specifically mentioned)
- Reform of liturgical music and encouragement of greater participation. The central role of the priest in the parish was a recurring theme. His friendliness, communicativeness, openness, visibility, and approachability cannot be underestimated. His perceived leadership role is still very prevalent and the behaviours he models are very important. A welcoming ministry rather than one that is seen as autocratic and dictatorial is seen as vital.