

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH, ATHY

Fr. G Tanham P.P. 059 86 31781, Fr. Tim Hannon C.C. 059 8631698, Fr. M. O'Shea SOLT 087 1613031, Aine Egan L.P.A. 059 8641650 Fr. Philip Dennehy PE. 059 8631696,

Parish Office/Shop Tel: 059 86 38391. Opening hours: Tues.-Fri.: 9.30 am - 1.30 pm & Sat: 10.30 am - 1.30 pm. Parish Secretary also available by phone: Tue - Fri from 2 pm - 4 pm. Parish email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

Parish website: www.stmichaelsathy.net

Sun 6th January 2013 *Epiphany of Our Lord (C)*

The Magi must have been both intellectually and imaginatively challenged when they came to the manger (a cow's feeding box) and pondered if the baby within was really the great King they had come to render homage. We are even more challenged when we gaze on the Eucharist and ponder that we are looking at the veiled but real presence of the Risen and Glorified Jesus who is also 'God from God, light from light, true God from true God.' An article from Fr Ron Rolheiser in the Catholic Herald addresses this matter:

Familiarity breeds contempt. It also blocks the mystery of Christmas by breeding a view of the life that cannot see divinity within humanity.

Yet all of us are hopelessly prone to see most-everything in an over-familiar way, namely, in a way that sees little or nothing of the deep richness and divinity that is shimmering everywhere under the surface. Alan Jones calls this a process of unlearning what's familiar.

This vision, seeing the world as transfigured with haloes around familiar faces, is ultimately the meaning of Christmas, the meaning of the incarnation, and the mystery of God walking around in human flesh. Christmas is not so much a celebration of Jesus' birthday as it is a celebration of the continued birth of God into human flesh, the continuation of the divine making itself manifest in the ordinary; God, a helpless baby in a barn.

Income: Parish Dev: €1,419; Share: € 995. Many thanks.

Morning Mass returns to the normal time of 9.15am beginning Monday.

Unused Christmas Gifts can be brought to church this weekend for distribution of the local needy.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD.

The Ambo: The Word of God is so important that there is a special place in God's house from which it is read. We call this the ambo. The only time that the ambo is used is for the Readings, the Gospel, the Homily and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Minister of the Word is the title of the person who reads at Mass. They will have had some training so that they are able to do the best job possible. Their job is very important. The readings at Mass come from the Bible. They are the Word of God and so we can say that we hear God speaking to us through the voice of the Minister of the Word.

Pro- Life Vigil takes place Sat, 19th Jan at 4.30 pm in Merrion Sq., Dublin (behind the Dáil). Organisers want to increase the numbers on November vigil, which attracted almost 10,000 people. Bus leaves from outside Parish Car Park, Athy, at 2pm. Call 086 851 6800.

The Bethlehem Star: A supernova is caused by a star exploding with cataclysmic effect. This causes a brilliant light to blaze and each supernova recorded to-date was seen with the naked eye in daylight. Only four have been seen in recorded time – 1006, 1054, 1572 and 1604. It is suggested that the Star of Bethlehem could have been such an event. Apart from the Babylonian astrologers who journeyed to pay homage to the Christ Child, the sighting was also noted independently in 6 BC by Chaldean, Chinese and Korean astronomers. There have been suggestions that the Star of Bethlehem may have been a genuine miracle, a celestial visitation by which God heralded the arrival of his Son on earth. Scholars agree that Jesus' birth did not actually take place in the year 0AD. The incorrect dating is said to be a miscalculation by a Roman Monk Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century.
(From the *Catholic Herald*.)

Coffee Morning takes place in the Dominican Church Hall after 10am Mass on Fri 11th Jan. Funds raised will assist Ciara – granddaughter of Maureen Ryan – to travel to Calcutta. There she will partake in the *Hope Foundation's* outreach to the poor.

Eucharistic Adoration will resume after Christmas on Mon 7th January.

Fatima Pilgrimage from 6th - 13th June leaves from Portlaoise. Fare to be paid before 1st Feb is €620. Spiritual Director is Fr Jimmy O'Reilly. Call Maura O'Brien 086 334 4722.

MASS SCHEDULE

Recently Deceased: Val Mackey, Gallowhill, Seán Doherty, Woodstock St. Mary Hughes, Shanrath, Brigid Howe, Barrowhouse, Mary Miller, Glenbawn, Inch. Marie O'Meara, Dunbrin, Barrowhouse, Elizabeth Rigney, The Bleach and formerly Bennettsbridge, Frank Carbury, who died in Scotland, Gladice & Frank Eaton, Burial in Birmingham on Wednesday next.

Saturday 7pm

Month's Mind: Dolores Byrne, Joe Aldridge.

Anniversaries: Margaret Hyland, Bridie Richards nee Kavanagh, Jane Mulvahill, Eamonn Johnson, Eileen Goulding, Mary Morrin, Paddy Wright, John Wright, Eileen Bracken, Mary Lawler, John & Josie Maher, Vic Lyon, Veronica Bambrick.

Sunday

8.30 am: Special Intention

10 am Barrowhouse:

Mary & James Brennan

Also pray for Martin McDonald

10.30 am Share Mass

Month's Mind:

Zoltan Zinn Collis

Recently Deceased: Mick Noonan, Maria Costello, Shane McEntee, Bridie Doyle, Kathleen Kavanagh, Marie O'Meara, Elizabeth Rigney, Martin Conroy.

Anniversaries: Michael Wall, Kevin, Joseph & Margaret Murphy, J.J. Leonard, Oliver Davis, Anne Brennan, Tom Brennan, James Brosnan, Ann Dalton, John & Josie Maher, Vic Lyon, Ciss & Bill Tierney, Michael Wall, Thomas Phelan, Deceased Members of Phelan Family, James Murphy, Peter Dunne, Pat Keating, Joe & Bridie Dwyer.

12 Noon:

Mon 9.15am: Michael Lalor

Tue 9.15am: Michael & Tom Finnan

Wed 9.15am: Steed Clan & Deceased Members of Burchell Family

Thu 9.15am: Special Intention

Friday 9.15am: John & Ita Moran

Saturday 11am: