

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH, ATHY

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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 13th January 2013
Baptism of Our Lord (C)

Sanctity of Human Life

Today's gospel offers striking testimony to the sanctity of human life: through baptism into Christ, we are claimed by God as his beloved sons and daughters. Against the backdrop of government moves to introduce abortion legislation [albeit limited in this initial instance] Archbishop Diarmuid Martin last Thu emailed parishes a message entitled **CATHOLIC TEACHING ON THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND REGARDING ABORTION.**

It said The Christian message is a message of life. It is about how every human life is a reflection of the very life of God. Each of us is created in the image of God. Catholic teaching clearly affirms that every human life has unique and irreplaceable dignity. Every human life has the right, from its very beginnings, to flourish and develop as God wants it to. Any society which attempts to define certain lives as being of lesser worth and of lesser protection betrays the common good. All should be equal in the face of the law. That is a fundamental principle of our Constitution – and indeed of democracy – to be maintained and protected.

He asked that publicity be given to the Pro-Life Vigil taking place near the Dáil on Sat 19th at 4.30pm. (Travel arrangement given below.) The Archbishop himself will lead an earlier prayer vigil at St Andrew's Church, Westland Row from 3-4pm. He commends the following to us:

Prayer for the Child in the Womb.

Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift. Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death. Give us wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all. Together with Mary, your Mother, in whose womb you took on our human nature, Help us to choose life in every decision we take. We ask this in the joyful hope of

eternal life with you, and in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Income: Parish Dev: €3,029; Share: €2,503. Many thanks.

THE LITURGICAL READINGS:

The Minister of the Word goes to the ambo to read. The first reading is usually from the oldest part of the Bible called the Old Testament. The stories that we hear during the first reading are the same stories that Jesus would have heard when he was a child. Some of the stories from the Old Testament are thousands of years old. They remind us of how long people have been listening to God's Word. They also tell us how much God loves us. Even though the stories are very old, they still have an important message for us today.

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 the changed time of 1.30pm.** Call 086 851 6800 to book a place.

Year of Faith: Booklets with daily meditations on prayer are available at the back. Suggested offering of €2 may be placed in any candle shrine.

World Peace Message 2013 of Pope Benedict XVI is at the back.

Confirmation: Next weekend at the Sat 7pm Mass, we will pray with the young people who are preparing for this sacrament. They will offer a short ritual on the theme of 'Fan the Flame'. All are welcome.

Parish Office/Shop will close at the earlier time of 1pm on Sat 19th Jan.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Friday 18th January til Fri 25th.

Sacred Heart Messengers can be collected from the Parish Office. Subscription of €15.60 for 2013 is now due. New subscribers are welcome.

World Youth Day – Rio : Contact is being made with every parish in the Archdiocese informing young people about World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. Deadline for bookings – Jan 31st. (Deposit €500). Dates are the 21-31st Jul 2013 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Young people aged 18+ will be provided with pastoral preparation in advance and continued accompaniment on their return. Poster available from www.evangelisation.ie or by joining their Facebook page – www.facebook.com/goodnewstogo. For more information call the Office for Evangelisation at 01 8379253.

MASS SCHEDULE

Recently Deceased: Ann Wright. Plewman's Tce. Elizabeth Kavanagh, Kilberry, Cianán Lambe, Rathstewart Crescent, Baby Terry Walsh, Bridie Ryan, Gouleyduff,

Saturday 7pm

Month's Mind: Bridie Doyle, Martin Conroy, Betty Muckerman nee May
Anniversaries: Margaret Kavanagh, Daniel Patrick Kavanagh, Mary 'Polly' Murphy, Maggie Hogan, Joe Walsh, Bridget Moran, Jimmy Connolly, Noreen Noonan, Tonner & Willie Bracken, Hugh Lawler, Deceased Members of Lawler Families

Sunday

8.30 am: Martin McDonald

10 am Barrowhouse:

Thomas & Elizabeth Dunne, Matthew Kelly, Eileen Kelly

10.30 am Share Mass

Recently Deceased: Mick Noonan, Marie Costello, Michael Ryan, Fred Hutchins, Val Mackey, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Cianán Lambe, Ann Wright.

Anniversaries: Jack Redmond, Damian McMahon, Bridget & Joseph Byrne, Bridget & Des Moylan, Peter Byrne, Thomas Byrne, Deceased Members of Byrne Family, Deceased Members of Carty Family, John & Katie Bradley, Noreen Kelleher, Eugene Doran, Marie T. Kelly, Harry Foley, Joseph Cowell

12 Noon:

Mon 9.15am: Jimmy Connolly

Tue 9.15am:

John & Josie Maher & Vic Lyon

Wed 9.15am: William Carton

Thu 9.15am: Special Intention

Friday 9.15am: Paddy Dunne

Saturday 11am: