

A time to pray

In these difficult and uncertain times, people find strength, consolation and hope in prayer. This is an occasion for all of us – especially in families – to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness. We should pray also for those at the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy – that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

Caring for each other

The situation of isolation that many will feel with the current restrictions challenges the Christian community to be attentive to and remember those in our communities who live alone and especially families carrying extra burdens. For example, even where it may not be appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

ALONE COVID-19 Helpline

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Ireland. Professional staff will be available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL MEASURES

in the Parishes of Athy, Narraghmore and Moone

We are all aware of the Coronavirus and how it is impacting on all of our lives. In the current emergency situation, the primary consideration must be the health and safety of all concerned.

The Government has announced several important and unprecedented measures to protect public health. The Irish Catholic Bishops have issued restrictive but necessary measures which remain in place until 29th March. It is likely that these restrictions will continue for some time after that. Advice by healthcare authorities is subject to change on a daily basis.

The motivation for these new restrictive measures is a sense of care for the common good and especially for those most vulnerable. As a Christian community we need to be acutely aware of the responsibility to care for those who are most at risk.

We must pray for each other, support one another and remain hopeful.

All Masses cancelled in the six churches of the Parishes of Athy, Narraghmore and Moone until further notice

The Government has directed that indoor mass gatherings of more than 100 people and outdoor mass gatherings of more than 500 should be cancelled. In order to follow the Government guidelines and adhere to the Irish Bishops' norms, all Masses in Athy Church, Ballymount Church, Barrowhouse Church, Crookstown Church, Kilmead Church and Moone Church are cancelled until further notice. It is simply not possible to guarantee a congregation of less than 100 people at any public Mass in any of our churches.

Mass on Athy Parish live-streaming

Mass will be broadcast on Athy Parish live-streaming

Weekdays at 9.30 am

Saturdays at 6.00 pm

Sundays at 10.30 am and 12 noon.

St Patrick's Day at 12 noon.

To access the live-streaming:

1. Google *Athy Parish*
2. Click on *Athy Parish WEBSITE*
3. Scroll down to the picture of Athy Church and press the *play arrow*.
4. Check that your volume is turned on in your *Settings*

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass.

Mass on Parish Radio

Mass will be broadcast on

Athy Radio 107.9 fm at the times listed above

Crookstown radio 107fm on Saturdays at 7.00pm

Moone Radio 88.00 fm on Sundays at 12 noon.

Funerals

Every Catholic is entitled to a dignified Christian burial. Funeral Masses can be celebrated in the church but it will be a private ceremony limited to family, close relatives and friends with at most 100 people inside the Church. Larger gatherings of up to 500 can take place outside after Mass or at a graveyard. Times of the graveyard prayers will be advertised on *rip.ie*

Weddings and Baptisms

These can take place on condition that attendance does not exceed 100 people inside the Church. Within Churches it is necessary that people observe a distance of at least one metre from each other.

All parish meetings cancelled

All non essential pastoral gatherings and meetings are cancelled. All Adoration/Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is suspended, as well as other services, including the Lenten Prayer services and Liturgy of the Word services.

Churches to remain open

The churches will remain open for prayer each day.