

**CORONAVIRUS
SPECIAL MEASURES
in the
Parishes of Athy, Narraghmore and Moone**

Revised on 3rd April in the light of the new Government
restrictions

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We are all aware of the Coronavirus and how it is severely impacting on all our lives. In the current emergency, the primary consideration must be the health and safety of all concerned. It is vitally important to adhere to the new restrictions in order to save lives. With the help of God, we can do this together.

The Government has announced new important restrictive measures to protect public health. These will remain in place until Easter Sunday, 12th April. 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.

Adhering to the Government restrictions and those of the Irish Bishops, the following measures are now in force in the Parishes of Athy, Narraghmore & Moone until further notice:

All Churches in the Parishes of Athy, Narraghmore and Moone are now closed. Athy Church, Ballymount Church, Barrowhouse Church, Crookstown Church, Kilmead Church and Moone Church.

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

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. However, we invite you to join in praying Mass with us through the webcam and the parish radio.

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

To access the live-streaming:

1. Go to www.parityofathy.ie
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*

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.

Parish Offices

Both the Parish Offices of Athy and Crookstown are now closed. However, the parish secretaries will be working from home.

To contact Athy Parish Secretary

please phone 059 8638391 or 085 1801391

email athyrc@eircom.net

To contact (Narraghmore& Moone) Crookstown Parish Secretary

please phone 086 7905654

email stlaurenceschurch@gmail.com

Funerals

The Government wants to ensure that families are able to bury their loved ones in a respectful manner while ensuring that all involved - mourners, funeral directors, celebrants and all involved in these services are protected from COVID-19.

Guidelines issued by the Government on Tuesday, 31st March confirm that immediate family members not exceeding 10 persons can still attend funeral services, burials and cremations, provided that social distancing rules are enforced. The number not exceeding 10 persons applies to places of worship and at the graveside. This relates to all funerals, including those arising out of COVID-19 deaths.

Weddings and Baptisms

All baptisms and weddings booked in any of the six churches for March or April are postponed. All who have made bookings have been contacted.

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.

Phone-pals....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 is not appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

If you live alone, would you like to have a phone-pal? A phone-pal will phone you every morning to check in with you that you are all right. The phone-pal will also phone you in the evening to see how you are getting on. This will be at a time agreeable to both of you. The phone-pal will not call to your house. This will be set up by the parish. If you would like to have a phone-pal, please phone or text Fr Liam Rigney 087 2607377 or email liamrigney@eircom.net

Spirit of Moone & Timolin Covid-19 Support Group

This is a voluntary group, set up so that neighbours can help

neighbours stay safe and well during this Covid-19 outbreak. Any help needed will be done on a strictly voluntary basis and with the greatest respect for hygiene, distancing and best practice as advised by the HSE, and of course, discretion. You can call or text your name to **087 3688884**

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.

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.

We pray that together we will get through this most difficult time. We are most appreciative of all our parish staff and volunteers who are continuing to serve as best they can in these circumstances. With every blessing as we continue our journey through Lent. We look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter, although in a very different way this year.

May God protect us all.

Fr Liam Rigney, P.P.

on behalf of the Parish Team – Fr Tim Hannon and Fr Francis McCarthy, and the Parish Pastoral Workers, Conor McCann and Natasha Geoghegan.