



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

Comprising the Faith Communities
of:
ST MICHAEL'S, ATHY
&
ST MARY'S, BARROWHOUSE



MASS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2023

READINGS

1st Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12.14.16.

Psalm: Ps. 88

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Kilberry. Funeral Mass today, Sunday at 1pm. Burial in St. Michael's New Cemetery.

Martin Phillips, Clonmullion

Louise Allen nee O'Rourke, Leicester, England

Frank Gregory, Kilrush

Jack Kenna, Daingean formerly Portarlington

Saturday 6pm Month's mind: Margaret Kelly

Anniversaries: Michael McHugh, Molly Connell, Sadie Eustace, Michael Eustace (20thA), Michael Perse (10thA),

Denis Byrne (20thA), Tony Doyle, Zoltan Collis,

Veronica Bradley (7thA), Joseph Bradley, Michael Walsh (3rdA)

Kathleen Archbold, Kitty Mulhall, John & Johnny Mulhall,

Paddy Mulhall, Marion Byrne, Dec. mem. of Byrne family, Sr.

Ann Guinan, Dec. Mercy Sisters, Athy, Fr. Cathal Hutchinson,

Carmel Murray, Rose Kelly, Parkey Kelly, Chrissie Maher,

Johnny Kelly, Joe Morgan, Kathleen Lynch, Jane McLoughlin,

Paddy Doogue, Johnny Quinn

11 am:

Birthdays rem: Bessie Casey

Month Mind: Anniversaries:

Anniversaries: Brigid McHugh, Maura Farrell, Liam Owens,

Veronica Bradley (7thA), Joseph Bradley, Fr. Gerard O'Keefe,

Theresa Kinsella (1stA), John Sourke, David & Bridie Bolger,

Denis Byrne (20thA), Michael & Peggy Doyle, Denis Cahalane,

Ann Cahalane, Marjorie & Willie Smith, Christina & Bernard

Lehane, Frank & Oliver Lehane, Kathleen & Bill Hughes,

Owenie Kelly, Elizabeth & Johnny Kelly, Noel Clifford,

Michael Ryan, Patrick & Anne Brennan: Patrick & Mary Howe

Christmas Day See *Christmas Day Altar List*

Tues. 11.00 am: St. Stephen's Day

Month's mind: Ann Kay

Birthdays rem. Christina Brennan Byrne

Special Intention, Mary & James O'Brien, Fidelma Kane

Wednes. 11.00 am: Eddie Roycroft, Bart & Rose Browne,

Tommy Buckley, Marie & John Cumins, Mary McDonald,

Eddie & James Wright, John & Elizabeth Browne

Thur. 11.00 am: Teresa Mealy (31stA), Margaret 'Peg'

Moloney (1stA), Brian & Sheila Kelly, Mary Molly

Devereux, Patricia Mahon, Eddie Doyle, Elizabeth Carroll,

Cornellius Hogan

Friday 11.00 am: Special Intention, Michael & Kathleen

Curtis, Lar Curtis, Dan Curtis, Tom & Elizabeth Page, Mary

& Tomas Kelly, Catherine Buckley nee Curtis, Elizabeth

Bess Curtis, Michael & Martina Curtis, Nicky & Ita Curtis,

John & Margaret Curtis, Caitlín, Lily & Daisy Curtis, Jean

& Charlie O'Donnell (Anniv)

CHURCH NOTICES

Weekend Mass times:

Today, 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve Morning, **there will be one Mass only** in the Parish Church at 11am (replacing 10.30am & 12 noon). **No 9Mass in Barrowhouse Church.**

There will be a **6pm Vigil** on **Sat 23rd** in Parish Church

Christmas Eve family Mass at 6pm

Vigil Mass at 8pm (*Carols at 8.45 by St. Michael's Parish Choir*)

11.30pm Vigil Athy Syro-Malabar Community Mass

(*This Mass will be entirely in the Malayalam language*)

Christmas Day: 10.30 am and 12 noon in the Parish Church.

9 am Mass in Barrowhouse

Christmas Dues can be placed in collection bags at any Mass or handed into Parish Office when it re-opens.

Weekday: Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th December

Mass everyday at 11am in the Parish Church.

Saturday 30th December & Sunday 31st December

Normal weekend Masses in the Parish Church.

Weekday Mass returns to normal time of 9.30am on Tuesday,

2nd January 2024.

Last Weekend Collections:

P. Dev.: €2,878 (includes annuals)

Common: €1,259 **Share:** € 1,150 *Thanks to contributors.*

Prayer before the Crib at home

The history of crib dates back over 800 years, St Francis of Assisi was the first to introduce the crib as a devotional. If you don't have a crib, perhaps you could buy one. If you are creative you could try making one. On Christmas morning, those who are in the house, gather before the Crib to welcome the Baby Jesus into to your home.

Begin by making the sign of the cross Place the Baby Jesus Pray the Prayer Before the Crib



Prayer before the Crib -

God, our Father, we praise and thank You for sending us your Son Jesus, as a small baby; so that we might understand how much You love us. Help us to live our daily lives knowing that we share in Jesus' light and life. Forgive us for our shortcomings and draw us closer to You daily. Holy Mary, who said 'Yes' that we might have life, pray for us all. Amen. Light a candle, preferably a Red one as red is the colour of Christmas. It is an Irish tradition of lighting a candle as a sign of welcome. We welcome the Baby Jesus into our home. Pray the Hail Mary and other intentions Finish by making the sign of the Cross.



Children are invited to come to the Athy **6pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve** dressed as Angels or Shepherds.



Those who are dressed up will be invited to take part in the Nativity at Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Thought for the day

The season of preparation is drawing to a close. Like Mary, our getting ready involves deep listen into what God is asking of me now and an interior willingness to say “let what you have said be done to me.” What is God asking of me now, as a person, in the family, at work, and indeed within the faith community of the Church? Have I noticed a pattern of “nudges” from God calling me to a deeper, perhaps different engagement as a disciple? Are my gifts—tokens of God’s grace—fully at the service of my neighbour?

Prayer

Great and loving God, open my ear to your word, open my heart to your call, open my life to your service. Give us all the strength to live according to the Good News of your Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.



Anam Cara South Dublin,

the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Monday 8th January at 7:15pm in the Maldron Hotel, Whitestown Way, Tallaght. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

Sycamore

Sycamore is a fantastic book that goes through 20 key aspects from the Catechism in a gentle conversation style allowing young people to engage and explore their faith in a new way. For the first time, we will run a gathering based on exploring Sycamore together. The gatherings will take place every Tuesday evening on Zoom, beginning **January 16**. Two in-person retreat/gathering days will take place over the course of reading the book. To find out more and to sign up, fill in your details here: <https://forms.office.com/e/knBdvbepAn>

ACCORD

Accord Carlow are now back open for face-to-face Relationship Counselling at St. Catherine’s Community Service Centre Carlow
For further information please phone Mary at 086 4149034 or email accordcarlow@gmail.com

Tap and Go Contactless Donation

First Collection (**Common Fund** Priest Collection) and the Second Collection (**Share Fund**)

&

Tap & Go for Parish Donations

You may be aware as you come through the doors of the church there are two devices.
One tap and Go for donations to the Archdiocese and the second for donations to Athy parish.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Athy Parish Office

Closed for Christmas Holiday until Fri, 29th Dec 11 am-12.20 pm

Normal hours Tuesday, 2nd January 2023 commencing at 9.30am

Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

Phone 059 86 38391

Address: Parish Office, St. Michael’s Church, Athy, Co. Kildare. R14 CA 26



REPAIR OF HEATING SYSTEM & HEATING FUND

Work on main central heating system in Athy Parish church is well in progress and it is hoped that it will be completed shortly.

The Cost is €167,000, which a huge amount of money for our parish.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Parish Bank details;

Name of A/c: Athy Parochial A/c

IBAN: **IE09 BOFI 9009 6511 1988 17**

BIC: **BOFIE2D**

Branch: Bank of Ireland, Emily Sq

Or

See donate button on parish website

www.parihofathy.ie

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077.

Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

AWARE – SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS

If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware’s phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit

www.aware.ie.

PARISH TEAM

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Athy Parish website www.parihofathy.ie

Parish Radio 107.9 fm