



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

PRAYER

Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person, today and every day of our lives.



CHURCH NOTICES

Weekend Mass times:

Athy Church: Saturday 6 pm Vigil, Sunday 10.30 am & 12 noon **Barrowhouse:** 9 am.

Due to work on heating 9am Rosary before Mass will **not** take place over the next 6 weeks.

Today is the First Sunday in Advent

Friday next is the Feast of Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass in Athy at 9.30am. Vigil Mass Thur 7 pm in Crookstown. Mass in Moone 11am Friday.

Parish Office will **close** on **Friday** due to Holy Day.

Christmas Remembrance. If you wish to have the names of your loved ones added to the Christmas remembrance list please hand the names in by 1.30 am Thursday 21st Dec.

We remind those who pay their **Annual subscriptions** to the Parish development Fund that they can pay their subscription now.

Last Weekend Collections:

P. Dev.: €1,990 (includes annuals)

Common: €1,355 **Share:** €1,081 *Thanks to contributors.*

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual Appeal will take place 9th /10th December.

The collection will be taken up during all Masses.

It will replace the Share Collection.

Donations can be made in the following way.

Drop it into the Parish Office where there is a collection box.

Leave it into the charity shop, *Vincents* on William St.

You can also post it to head office, by using the blue envelope SVP House, 91-92 Sean McDermott St. Dublin Freepost .

Donation will be returned to Athy.

Donate on line svp.ie/svpathyappeal23

MARY'S MEALS

The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched its **Christmas Gifts Campaign** – giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need. From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need. Visit www.marysmeals.ie to download a gift today or call 01-8535163/089-4339592.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Margaret Kelly, Whitecastle Lawns

Margaret Howard, England

Alice Ashe, Minches Tce.

Saturday 6pm

Month's Mind: Margaret Owens, Ann Harrison nee Webster

Birthday remembrance: Sr. Eileen Egan, John Dalton

Anniversaries: Bidy Doyle, Dec. mem. of Doyle family, Joe Keogh, Annie Keogh, Pat Keogh, Steffano Colapicchioni, Annie O'Neill (1st A), Anne Browne (4th A), Olive Harte, Rita Delaney, Dec. members of Webster & Reid families, Finbar Purcell, John Coughlan (31st A), Ethal Hogan,

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Peggy & Tom Phelan, Thomas & Elizabeth Dunne, Mathew & Eileen Kelly,

10.30 am:

Month's mind: Margaret Owens

Birthday remembrance: Noel Forde, Theresa Carbery

Anniversaries: Ann Horgan, Ciss Webster, Dec. mem. of Webster family Brian Kelly, Richard Norris, Winifred Doolan, Dora Waters, Ann Carolan, Kevin, Peg & Mark Merlehan

12.00 noon:

Birthday remembrance: Sean Loughman

Anniversaries: Michael Mullin

Donor's Intention

Mon. 9.30 am: Fr. Ailbe O'Connor

Special Intention

Tues. 9.30 am: *Margaret Howard*, burial takes place today in England, Bidy Doyle, Dec. mem. of Doyle family, Mary Mullin

Wednes. 9.30 am: George Aldridge Jnr. Anne Browne (4thA), Nancy English

Thur. 9.30 am: Golden Book

Friday Holy Day: Feast of Immaculate Conception 9.30 am:

Mick Murphy, Agnes Murphy, Bridie Foy (10th A) Joseph Bastable, Paddy 'Skinner' Foley

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17: 64: 1.3-8

Psalm: Ps. 79

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH
Heating Fund

Please take a
Donation Envelope

All returned envelopes will be included in a

Christmas Draw

Sunday 17th December, '23
 after 12 o'clock Mass

Every donation appreciated

Prizes: €250, €150, €100

€100 Liffey Mills Voucher	€75 Voucher Clanard Court Hotel
Bradburys Christmas Hamper	Clean Jean Voucher
€50 Manleys Voucher	Drinks Hamper from Lock 13
€50 Perry's Voucher	Greenfields Festival '24, 2 Tickets

ALL prizes kindly sponsored

REPAIR OF HEATING SYSTEM & HEATING FUND

Work on main central heating system in Athy Parish church has commenced and it is hoped that it will be completed before Christmas. The Cost is €167,000, which a huge amount of money for our parish. The Parish Finance Committee have established a Heating Fund. We need your help. If you are willing to support please take a Heating Fund envelope which you will find at doors of the church. In appreciation of all donations, big and small, all envelopes will be included in a **Christmas Draw** which will take place on Sunday, 17th December 2023, after 12 noon Mass.

Thanks to those who have already contributed.. Over €6,700 has been raised so far.

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Liam Rigney P.P. Parochial Hs.,
 1 Stanhope Pl. Athy, Co. Kildare. R14 CH 90.
 Ph: 087 2607377 liam.rigney@dublindiocese.ie
Fr. Tim Hannon C.C. Ph: 059 8630704,
Fr. Francis McCarthy C.C. Ph: 087 6978143.



Pastoral Workers:

Conor McCann, Ph: 086 7905654
 conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie
Natasha Geoghegan Ph: 087 6730300
 natasha.curran@dublindiocese.ie

Athy Parish Office

Mon 2.15-4 pm
Tues & Wednes: 9.30am –1.30 pm & 2 -4 pm,
Thur & Fri: 9.30-1.30 pm,
 (afternoon by phone/email only)
Saturday: 10.30-12.30 pm. (note change in closing time)
 CLOSED HOLYDAYS
Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net
Phone 059 86 38391
Address: Parish Office, St. Michael's Church, Athy,



YOUTH 2000 CHRISTMAS RETREAT

8th-10th December
 Newbridge College Co. Kildare
 Age 16-35 FREE BUSES

Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, Games & plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young & Catholic today! Book online www.youth2000.ie

CATECHETICAL CORNER - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Friday next, 8th December, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. But what is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That is what "immaculate" means: without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk. 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word 'KECHARITOMENE' which means: "to have been created in the fullness of grace". That Greek word appears nowhere else in the Bible and is used only in reference to Mary.

We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin ". (CCC # 491). We read: *The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love"*

Although Mary was preserved from original sin and remained sinless throughout her life she was still in need of salvation. "My spirit rejoices in GOD my saviour..." (Lk. 1:47). But Mary was saved before her sin, not like us. We are saved after our sin by the merits of the Cross of Christ. There are two ways to save someone who falls into the sea; one is to pull them out the other is to stop them from falling in the first place. The Immaculate Conception is the latter. Mary was saved from falling into sin in the first place.

To Do: Mary revealed to a visionary that her favourite title to addressed by is the Immaculate Conception. During this week pray this simple prayer often throughout the day: "Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee,"

PARISH SHOP/OFFICE

CHRISTMAS STOCK now available from Parish Office, includes advent calendars, Church Art calendars, cribs, candles, Christmas Mass bouquets along with a good selection of cards etc.

Reminder for all to collect their December St Martins magazine and Messenger.

ATHY PRAYER MEETING

Every Tuesday at 8pm in Fr. Dennehy's Old house
 All welcome

BARROWHOUSE HOLY HOUR

6.30pm - 7.30pm

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME CHANGE

ENROLMENT IN SCOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA 2024

For Junior infants or ASD classes
 From Friday 12th January - Friday 2nd February
 Contact details 059 8634811
 or e mail info@spnathy.ie

THE GAELSCOIL ÁTHA Í ENROLMENT FOR 2024-2025

is now open for junior infants starting school.
Open night on Thursday, 7th of December at 5:30pm to 7pm.

ATHY COMMUNITY ARTS

Are hosting a concert by the Irish Tenor Patrick Hyland, Wednesday 13th December at 8pm. There will be a special guest appearance by local talent Katie Roycroft
 Tickets €22 available from Winkles & Athy Lions

Club bookshop.

For more details contact 087 0576713 or
athyarts@gmail.com

Athy Parish website www.parishofathy.ie
Parish Radio 107.9 fm