



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023

Prayer

We come before you in the darkness of our lives, aware of our need of Christ, the light of the world. Let us receive him in faith so that we may become witnesses to that light which has truly come into the world.



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

May Neill, Ashville
Paddy Kelly, Dominic's Park

Saturday 6pm Birthday rem: Celia Howard, Johnny Fox
Anniversaries: Rita Quinn (7th A), Niall & Breda Dunne, Christy & Lil Dalton, Michael & Delia Connolly, Michéal 'Gunner' Connolly, Stephen & Harriet Connolly, Patrick, Mary & Declan Roche, Brendan Owens (1st A), Betty Wallis (1st A), Ben Whelan, Molly 'Mary' Rowan, Molly 'Mary' Hamilton, Cassie & Jack O'Keeffe, James Rowan, Joe & Annie Kehoe, Pat Kehoe, Pat Flood (5th A), Dec. mem. of Flood & May families, Joseph Martin, Patrick Stanley, Harriette Comerford, Michael & Annie Dooley, Una Gaule, Dolores Connell Costello, John Flanagan, John & Ellen Kirwan, Bill Kelly, Patrick 'Paddy' Quinn, Michael Eustace, Michael Rainsford, Katie & Joseph Gumley, Patsy, Padraig & Kathleen Gumley, Rosie Smyth, Helen O'Reilly, Kathleen McKeague, George & Ellen Waugh, Jim Boylan, Peter & Hughie Boylan, Joe & May Kane, Nancy, Sean & Jason Dooley, John & Maggie Hoare, Bill & Pat Hoare, May, Noel, John & Ann Murphy, Ted & Rita Ward, Kathleen Mackey, Betty Cusack, Pat Fitzsimons, Martin Holohan, Kathy Brown, Mary Hyland, Marjorie Austen, Kitty Byrne, Doris Pratt, Bernadette Thompson, Maureen Coyle, Dec. mem. of Kane & Hoare families, Frank Honer, David Whittle, Sarah & John Davis, Barney & Elizabeth Doyle, Leo Delaney, Dec. mem. of Bowen family, Owen, Kitty & Julia McDonald, Robert & Mary Byrne, & dec mem of Byrne family, Tom, Simon & Nancy Byrne, Maureen, John & tom Byrne, Jimmy Stynes

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Bridget Howe, James & Angela Davis, Theo & Bridie Davis, PJ & Joan Davis, John & Margaret Grufferty, Adam Davis, Boby Smithers, Mary & Thomas Davis

10.30 am: Birthday rem: Bessie Casey

Month Mind: Owen McDonald

Anniversaries: Michael & Annie Dooley, Edward Whelan, Jack Redmond, Brendan Owens (1st A), Molly 'Mary' Hamilton, Jack & Cassie O'Keeffe, Joseph & Julia Martin, Sr. Carmel Condron, Ciaran Condron, Ellen Fingleton, Bill Kelly, Theresa & Willie Dooley (4th A), Peter Fleming, Elizabeth Lawlor, Dec. mem. Of Murphy & Lawler families, Celia Howard, Johnny Fox, Paddy Casey, Geoff, Ellen & Gavin Eastwood, Teresa & Sam Hallows, PJ & Nellie Bowden, Ger Molloy, Liam Hughes, Dec. mem. of Davis family, Kathleen Haskins, Dec. residents of Woodstock St., Minches Tce. & St. Martins's Tce. Michael & Ned Ryan

12.00 noon: Anniversaries: Brendan Owens (1st A), Maurice & Francis Kane, Joseph & Julia Martin, Maura McCauley, Liam Reid (21st A), Dolores Connell Costello, Molly 'Mary' Hamilton Joe & Kathleen Gibbons, Peg Hemenstall (5th A), Mike Breslin

Mon. 9.30 am: Christopher & Mary Cleary, Dec. mem. Of Cleary & Troy families, Niall & Breda Dunne, John Martin Finnan, Theresa & Willie Doody (4th A), Special Intention

Tues. 9.30 am: Bridie Flanagan, Joe McNamara, Ellen Bastable, Anne Stanisan, Special Intention

Wednes. 9.30 am: Mary Ellen Flanagan, Margaret & Tony Doyle, James & Eileen Hanratty, Special Intention, Mary Moran (25th A), Liam Reid

Thur. 9.30 am: Denis Chanders, Michael & Mary Doyle, Denis J, Brid & Sean Delaney, Fr. Manus Lyons, Special Intention

Friday 9.30 am: Patrick & Anne Farrell, Margo Heskin, Ann Rigney, Martin Rigney, Patrick & Paddy Quinn, Michael & Sadie Eustace, Holy Souls, Special Intention

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.

If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones added to the **Christmas Day List** please hand the names in by **lunch time Thursday next 21st Dec** to insure printing. The printed list will be displayed near the Altar and intention will be remembered in all Christmas Masses.

Area Distributors are reminded that **Christmas timetables & Due envelopes will be ready** for collection from behind the high Altar.

On Sunday **next**, 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve Morning, **there will be one Mass only** in the Parish Church at **11am** (replacing 10.30am & 12 noon). There will be **no 9am Mass on Sun**, 24th December in **Barrowhouse Church**. There will be a 6pm Vigil on Sat 23rd.

Last Weekend Collections: P. Dev.: €2,257 (includes annuals) **Common:** €1,200

Holy Day **Share:** €175 **Common:** €410

Thanks to contributors.

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual Appeal which took place last weekend raised in the following Churches

St. Michael's Athy	€8,299.35
Barrowhouse	€2,176.00
Kilmeade	€2,104.70
Ballymount	€738.00
Crookstown	€837.50
Balylinan	€1,054.00



Sincere thanks to all who gave so generously

While Shepherds Watched,

presented by Athy Musical and Dramatic Society, will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 19th December at 7.30pm** in the Parish Church
Admission fee €10 Tickets available from JM Computers or at the door on the night

BARROWHOUSE CAROL SERVICE

takes place today Sunday 17th December at 7pm

St. Mary's Church Barrowhouse

All welcome, free admission

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 Clarendon 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 is well in progress 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 today, Sunday, 17th December 2023, after 12 noon Mass.**

Thanks to those who have already contributed.. Over €14,000 has been raised so far.

PARISH SHOP/OFFICE

CHRISTMAS STOCK now available from Parish Office, includes advent calendars, cribs, candles, Christmas Mass bouquets, gifts, along with a good selection of cards. St. Vincent's Choir Christmas CD available cost €10



Please note Parish office will **close** for **Christmas holidays on Friday, 22nd December at 1pm sharp**

Athy Parish Office

Mon 2.15- 4 pm
Tues & Wednes: 9.30am –1.30 pm & 2 -4 pm,
Thur 9.30-1.30 pm,
Friday, 22nd Dec 9.30am-1pm.
CLOSED HOLYDAYS & Bank Holidays

Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net
Phone 059 86 38391

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



CATECHETICAL CORNER - "O..."

The beautiful Advent hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel..." is a musical setting of a set of prayers or antiphons, called, the O Antiphons or the Great O Antiphons, that have been in use in the Church, certainly since the seventh/eighth century, and possibly as early as the fifth century. Since that time, this set of seven prayer texts has been sung or recited over the final days of Advent, beginning on the 17th December, during the daily service of vespers, or evening prayer. They are voiced in response to the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Each antiphon addresses God with "O" and a biblical name and concludes with a call for Him to come. The phrases of the prayers derive from Scripture. And while you not be familiar with evening prayer, as recited by priests, religious and a growing number of lay people, you will be familiar with them from the verses of the well-known Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." These prayers may be used devotionally, one a day, from December 17 to 23 as way of meditating on the coming of Jesus, just as they have been for nearly 1500 years. Here are the texts of the "Great O's" together with some of the biblical references, as they appear in the Evening Prayer:

- O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O Come and teach us the way of truth. (Proverbs 8:12, Isaiah 11:2)
- O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law: O Come, and save us with your mighty power. (Ex. 3:14b)
- O Root (Stock) of Jesse, You stand for a signal for the nations; before You kings shall keep silence, you whom all nations acclaim. O Come and save us and do not delay. (Isaiah 11:1; Matt. 1: 1- 17; Rom. 15:12)
- O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel: What you open and no one else can close, What You close and no one may open. O Come to lead the captive from of prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (Isaiah 22:22)
- O Dayspring (Rising Sun), you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (Job 38.12; Isaiah 9:2; Lk 1:78)
- O King (Ruler) whom all the people desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O Come and save [humanity] who you made from clay. (Psalms 118:22; Isaiah 28:16)
- O Emmanuel, you are our King and Judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O Come and save us, Lord our God. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 28:20b)

Tap and Go Contactless Donation
November Tap & Go Share & Common collected amounted to €67.00 from 11 transactions

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.



READINGS

1st Reading:
Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11
Psalm: Ps. Lk1
2nd Reading:
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel:
John 1:6-8. 19-28

ATHY Mercy Associate Meeting

Meeting of Lay Associates

on Monday, 18th December

at 7.30 pm in Parish Centre,

Mount Hawkins



PARISH TEAM

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