



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 25TH FEBRUARY 2024



PRAYER Ever-faithful God, you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience and you accepted the sacrifice of your son, who gave himself up for the sake of us all. Train us by Christ's teaching and school us in his obedience that as we walk his way of sacrifice we may come to share in your glory. AMEN

CHURCH NOTICES

Weekend Mass times: 6pm, 10.30am & 12 noon & Barrowhouse Sunday at 9 am
Weekday Mass times: 9.30 am

Lent is a time for **prayer, fasting & alms giving**
Trocaire Boxes are at the doors of the church.

I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted. (Psalm 116:10)

Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent after 9.30am Mass

Last Weekend Collections:

P. Dev.: €657 **Common:** €1,260 **Accord** €1,290

Thanks to all who contribute

Parishioners Rosary for Lent

will be recited every morning during Lent at Sacred Heart Altar before Mass



READINGS

1st Reading: Genesis: 22.1-2.9-13. 15-18

Psalm: (Ps. 115)

2nd Reading: Romans 8.31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Vocations

Are you concerned about the decline in Vocations? What can I do to promote Vocations? What else can be done?

Zoom session: Tuesday 5th March 8 pm to 9 pm

Keynote Speaker – Breda O'Brien

To register for this webinar simply

email: thehookoffaith@gmail.com See www.thehookoffaith.com

Lenten Prayer Evenings

The Parishes of Narraghmore, Moone, Athy and Castledermot will be holding Lenten Prayer evenings for the following Wednesday during Lent.

- **Wednesday next 28th February @7pm**
in the Church of the Assumption, Castledermot.
- **Wednesday 6th March @7pm** in Ss. Mary & Laurence Church, Crookstown.
- **Wednesday 13th March @7pm** in St. Ita's Church, Kilmead
- **Wednesday 20th March @ 7pm** in St. Michael's Church, Athy

Our Lenten Prayer evenings, will reflect on the following themes: **Healing, Forgiveness, faith, Hope & Love.** All are Welcome as we prayer together on our Lenten Journey.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

William 'Liam' Doogue, Mount Carmel, Newbridge, formerly Brackna

Saturday 6pm Month's mind: Tom 'Curley' Kelly, Maura Kelly, Pauline Hanley

Anniversaries: Sean Fanning, Eileen Deegan, Angela Kelly (5th A), Pearse Dunne (26th A), Noel Eston, Mary Jo Gray nee Mulhall, Dec. mem of Mulhall & Brohooon families, Michael Kelly, Christy Tyrrell Brogan, Dec. mem of Broogan & Tyrrell families, Margaret & Ann, Phillips, Dec. mem of Phillips family, Anthony Poole, Dec. mem of Brophy family, Alice, Jim & Michael Fitzpatrick, Johanna Smyth, Mary Hayden, Elizabeth Vaughan, Walter Clancy, James & Maureen Clancy, Vera Connolly, Peggy & Michael Doyle, Vivienne Anderson (12th A), Paul & Paddy Foley, Declan & Dany Ayres, Dec mem of Ayres Family, Stephen Leonard, Dec mem of Leonard Family Eileen Bolger, Annie & Mickey Coogan, Bernard Dowling, Maurice May

9 am Sunday Barrowhouse: Eilish Whelan, Michael Whelan, Dec. mem of Whelan family, Maura Fenlon

10.30 am: Recently Deceased: Pauline Brennan

Anniversaries: Mary Meredith, Mick Leahy, Noel Eston, Mary Berry (2nd A), Joseph, Margaret & Kevin Murphy, J.J. Leonard, Patrick Coogan, Patricia Coogan, Liam Kennedy, Abbey George, Elizabeth Myles, Vivienne Anderson (12th A), Maura Fenlon

12 noon: Month's mind: Johnny Leahy

Birthday remembrance: Michael Mulqueen

Anniversaries: Mary Meredith, Angela Kelly (5th A), Noel Eston, Mick Leahy, James Fleming (13th A), Peggy & Michael Doyle, Abbey George, Vivienne Anderson (12th A), Patrick Towell nee Harris, Sean Kavanagh

Monday 9.30 am: Patrick & Daniel O'Brien,

Tues. 9.30 am: Mamie Brady, Rosalinda & Romeo Silacan, Christy Tyrrell Brogan, Trena Connell

Wednes. 9.30 am: Tommy Buckley (1st A)

Thur 9.30am: Joe & Bridget Doyle

Friday 9.30am: Altar List of the Dead

ATHY & DISTRICT CARE OF THE ELDERLY COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 26th February at 8pm in Athy Parish Centre, Mount Hawkin

Homeless Clinic

The Council's Monthly Homeless Outreach Clinic will take place on Wednesday, 13th March next in Athy Family Resource Centre, R14 NN97 from 2pm – 4pm

Irish Episcopal Conference Message re: Referendums on March 8th

Upon his arrival in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families on 25 August 2018, Pope Francis met with representatives of civil, cultural and religious life, including the Taoiseach and members of the Government. Pope Francis said he was visiting Ireland to help families *“reaffirm their commitment to loving fidelity, mutual assistance and reverence for God’s gift of life in all its forms, but also to testify to the unique role played by the family in the education of its members, and the development of sound and flourishing social fabric”*. *“Families are the glue of society, their welfare cannot be taken for granted, but must be promoted and protected by every appropriate means”*.

In this context, we wish to comment on the two important referendums on family and care which are taking place on the 8th of March 2024.

39th Amendment (amending Article 41)

The Family, based on the exclusive, life-long and life-giving public commitment of Marriage, is the foundational cell of society and essential to the common good. This reality of the Family corresponds to the unchanging plan of God for humanity and the importance of the Family continues to be acknowledged by people of good will, whether they be persons of faith or not.

The family is acknowledged as the place where generosity, tenderness, forgiveness, stability, care, love and truth can best be taught and learned by children. We recognise, of course, that there are families in all our communities which are not founded on marriage. They form part of the reality of family life, which Pope Francis described as *“a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems”*.

We believe, however, that the commitment of marriage contributes to the common good in a unique way, by bringing stability to the family and to society, and that it consequently deserves the protection of the State, which is currently guaranteed in the Constitution. The Constitution of Ireland rightly qualifies the Family as a *“moral institution”* and one that enjoys *“inalienable and imprescriptible rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law”*. We are concerned that the proposed ‘family amendment’ to the Constitution diminishes the unique importance of the relationship between marriage and family in the eyes of Society and State and is likely to lead to a weakening of the incentive for young people to marry.

While ‘Marriage’ entails a public and legal commitment, the term ‘durable relationship’ is shrouded in legal uncertainty and is open to wide interpretation. It does not make sense that such an ambiguous reality would be considered ‘antecedent and superior to all positive law’ and acquire the same ‘inalienable and imprescriptible’ rights as those ascribed to the ‘family founded on marriage’. Various commentators have suggested that the term ‘durable relationship’ risks leading to unforeseen and unintended consequences.

The Care Amendment: 40th Amendment (deletes Article 41.2 & inserts the new 42B)

In an age when people, and especially women, often emphasise the desirability of balancing work and domestic commitments, it is noteworthy that the Irish Constitution already recognises and seeks to facilitate the choice of mothers who wish especially to care for the needs of the family and the home. Contrary to some recent commentary, the present constitutional provision emphatically does not state that *“a woman’s place is in the home”*. Neither does it excuse men of their duties to the home and family. It is reasonable to ask what benefit is it to Irish society to delete the terms ‘woman’ and ‘mother’ from the Constitution of Ireland? People generally recognise the enormous commitment that women in Ireland have given, and continue to give, in relation to care, love and affection in the home. Pope Francis has said *“Families and homes go together”* (AL44). We therefore have similar concerns about the removal of the term ‘home’ from this article. In contemporary society there now exists a welcome co-responsibility between women and men for every aspect of domestic life, including the provision of care in the home. We believe that, rather than removing the present acknowledgement of the role of women and the place of the home, it would be preferable and consistent with contemporary social values that the State would recognise the provision of care by women and men alike. Care, both inside and outside the home, is at the core of compassion. Without such care in the family, the common good of society cannot be achieved. The State has to date failed to financially acknowledge the role of women in the home; once again there is no indication that there will be provision for the adequate financial remuneration of carers. The proposed term ‘strive to support’ appears to weaken the state’s constitutional responsibility to materially and legislatively support such care. The proposed new Article 42B does not actually confer any enforceable rights for carers or for those being cared for.

It is right to recognise that care within the family and the wider community takes many forms and is provided by a wide variety of people. In the words of Pope Francis at the Festival of Families in Croke Park on 25 August 2018 *“in any family celebration, everyone’s presence is felt: fathers, mothers, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, cousins, those who cannot come and those who live too far away”*.

The proposed amendment would have the effect of abolishing all reference to motherhood in the Constitution and leave unacknowledged the particular and incalculable societal contribution that mothers in the home have made and continue to make in Ireland. The present constitutional wording does not in any way inhibit women from working or taking their proper place in social and public life.

ATHY PARISH OFFICE

Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

Phone 059 86 38391

Address:

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



OPEN:

Monday: 2.15-4pm

Tuesday & Wednes:

9.30-1.30 pm & 2-4pm

Thur & Fri: 9.30-1.30pm

(by phone in the afternoon)

Sat: 10.30am-12.30 only

LOURDES PARISH PILGRIMAGE Moone, Narraghmore, Athy

25th Aug– 1st Sept 2024

Cost: €975

Spiritual Director Fr. Francis McCarthy

Contact

Christopher Rowan 087 2707 182



Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors
of church

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 1st March 2024

Theme:

**‘I beg You bear with one another in
Love’**

in

St. Mary & Laurence Church, Crookstown
at **7.30pm**

Informed Prayer, Prayerful action

Athy Parish website

www.pariahofathy.ie

Parish Radio 107.9 fm

**54 Day Novena to
Our Mother Mary of Ireland**
for the retention
of **‘mother’** and **‘family’**
in the Irish constitution
continues since 11th February
to Friday 8th March
(day of referendum)

&

Saturday, 9th March- 4th April,
Divine Mercy Sunday

**Our Lady of Knock,
Pray for Ireland**



Kildare County Council are planning a
Public Participation Day for the proposed
Athy Flood Relief Scheme,
to be held in Athy Community Library on
the 27th of February.