



THE PARISH  
OF ATHY

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



**MASS OF THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**Day of Prayer for Temperance & World Day of the Sick**



*O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, You are the refuge of sinners, the health of the sick, and the comfort of the afflicted. You know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. By your appearance at the Grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where your favours are given to people streaming to it from the whole world. I come to you with complete confidence, imploring your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favours, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory.*

**CHURCH NOTICES**

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

**Weekday Mass times: 9.30 am**

Due to work on heating 9am Rosary before Mass will **not** take place yet

**Trocaire Boxes** are at the doors of the church.

**Last Weekend Collections:**

P. Dev.: €1,196 Common: €1,200 Share: €1,035

*Thanks to all who contribute*

**Next Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY, 14th Feb, Day of Fast & Abstinence & beginning of Lent**



Mass in the Parish Church at **9.30 am & 7 pm** followed by **distribution of Blessed ashes**

**LENTEN PLEDGE**

If you wish to take the Pioneer Lenten Pledge to abstain from alcohol for Lent, Pledge can be taken Ash Wednesday before or after Mass. Contact: Elaine 085 1801 391 or Parish Office 059 86 38391



You can also talk to a priest or see: [www.pioneers.ie](http://www.pioneers.ie)

**Lenten Prayer Evenings**

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

- **Wednesday 21st February @7pm in Church of the Blessed Trinity, Moone.**
- **Wednesday 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:**

*Phil Holohan*, late of St. Joseph's Tce, died in England.

**Saturday 6pm**

**Month's mind:** Maura Walsh, Donal Chanders, Mary O'Rourke

**Birthday remembrance:** Ben Whelan, John Hoare Esther Maher, Una Gaule, Kathleen Gleeson

**Anniversaries:** Michael Dooley (2nd A), Catherine 'Kay' Kelly, Betty Farrell, James Doyle, Dec. members of Doyle family, Christy Myles (2nd A), Declan & Jack Deere, Henry Kelly, Dec. members of Kelly family, Danny McEvoy (41st A), John Lammon, Julia Lammon, Johnny & Jimmy Lammon, Dec. members of Lammon family, John Fitzpatrick, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Dec. members of Fitzpatrick family, Joe Ryan, Willie McCarthy, Mary Morrow (16th A), Margaret & Willie Bolger, Tom Boland, David Hennessy, Frances Lanigan (2nd A), Tony Campbell (49th A), Rita Ward (1st A), Ted Ward, Joe Kane, May Kane, Nancy, Sean & Jason Dooley, John & Maggie Hoare, Bill & Pat Hoare, May & Noel Murphy, John & Ann Murphy, Kathleen Mackey, Betty Cusack, Pat Fitzsimons, Martin Holohan, Kathy Brown, Mary Hyland, Marjorie Austen, Doris Pratt, Kitty Byrne, Bernadette Thompson, Maureen Coyle, Dec. members of Kane & Hoare families, Frank Honer, David Whittle Micheál Kelly, Tommy & Lily Clifford, James Doran O'Reilly (53rd A), Paddy & Paul Foley, Michael & Rosanna O'Connor, Dan Foley & Mary Foley, Peter & Esther Brereton

**9 am Sunday Barrowhouse:**

**10.30 am: Birthday rem.** Ben Whelan, Esther Maher & 80th birthday rem. Bridget Fox

**Anniversaries:** James Doyle, Dec. mem of Doyle family, Hugh 'Sam' Owens, Dec. mem of Owens family, Elizabeth & Edward O'Beirne, Willie McCarthy, Michael Bride, John Hickey Snr. Tommy & Lily Clifford, Hughie Owens

**12 noon: Month's mind:** Anthony Lynch

**Anniversaries:** James Doyle, Dec. mem of Doyle family, Mag & Pat Roche, Jimmy & Mary Sweeney, Noelle Sweeney, Willie McCarthy, Tommy & Lily Clifford, Johnny Haskins (2nd anniv)

**Monday 9.30 am:** James Doyle, dec. members of Doyle family, Sean Mitchel, Michael Moyles

**Tues. 9.30 am:** Bridget Brennan, Patrick, Elizabeth & Billy Farrelly, Special Intention, James & Mary Ennis

**Wednes. 9.30 am:** Joseph McConville, Rita & Matt Hanly, Elizabeth Kingston, John O'Brien

**Thur 9.30am:** Elizabeth Flood, Mary, Patrick & Des Howard, Hughie Owens

**Friday 9.30 am:** Cyril McGovern, Anna & Donal McGovern, Patrick Fogarty (63rd A), Donor's Intention

## PARISH TEAM

**Fr. Liam Rigney P.P.** Parochial Hs.,  
1 Stanhope Pl. Athy, Co. Kildare.  
R14 CH 90.



Ph: 087 2607377

liam.rigney@dublindioocese.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@dublindioocese.ie

**Natasha Geoghegan** Ph: 087 6730300

## 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

**Office closed Holy Days & Bank Holidays**

The shop now accept payment by visa/master card



## ENROLMENT

### Kilberry National School

now accepting enrolments for Sept. 2024

Application form on line

www.kilberryns.ie

Contact school office  
0598638448

Email

kilberry.ias@gmail.com

Closing date for

applications

22nd March

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 14<sup>th</sup> is a day of fast and abstinence. **Fast means one main meal and 2 snacks, health permitting; abstinence is from meat.**

**LENT:** A meaning sacrifice for this penitential season would be to give God 20 minutes of prayer time daily – much more meaningful than giving up chocolate biscuits. An ideal way to spend this 20 minutes would be the family Rosary. This 20 minutes can also be spent in many other ways: in the car, while walking, in private prayer before the tabernacle or it can be done during idle periods during the day.

**WORD AMONG US:** Daily reflections for Lent can be accessed at [www.bit.ly/WAU24](http://www.bit.ly/WAU24)



Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors of church



## Heating Donations

If you wish to donate to the parish heating system you can donate by clicking on heating fund button on parish website. This link will also take you to Heating Fund donate button

<https://platform.payzone.ie/customer/10070/product-list/details/6635>

Heating repair cost is €167,000, which a huge amount of money for our parish. All donation to Parish are always welcome including once off donations

*Thanks to all you have already subscribed*

**Athy Parish website**  
[www.parihofathy.ie](http://www.parihofathy.ie)  
**Parish Radio** 107.9 fm

## Parishioners Rosary for Lent

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

**Ash Wednesday at 9.10am**



## 54 Day Novena to Our Mother Mary of Ireland

for the retention of **“mother”** and **“family”** in the Irish constitution

from Sunday **11th Feb** to Fri **8th March** & Sat **9th March-4th April**, Divine Mercy Sunday  
*Our Lady of Knock, Pray for Ireland*

## Sycamore

Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion in a small group format. Sycamore will run in our parish on the Mondays during Lent at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre. There is a maximum of 16 participants and a minimum of 8. Each session will last approximately 1 hour.

If you are interested in growing in your faith and learning together please contact our Parish Pastoral Worker – Conor McCann on 086-7905654 or by email: [conor.mccann@dublindioocese.ie](mailto:conor.mccann@dublindioocese.ie) Further details are in the Parish Newsletter, on the Parish Website and Facebook page

## CATECHETICAL CORNER - TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Lent begins on Wednesday. This beautiful Liturgical season is an opportunity for us to hit the reset button and turn our focus back to where it should be...on GOD. Everything that we do during Lent, what we give up or take on, our prayer, our giving to Charity, are all done with the purpose of reminding us of our need for GOD's mercy and forgiveness. But also, how much we are loved and should love in return. The Lenten season is marked by a few very obvious liturgical practices. Firstly, the colour of the priests' vestments change from green to purple. Indeed, the banners in the church will also change. And, according to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship: *“In Lent, the altar should not be decorated with flowers...”* (Letter on the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts #17). Other notable omissions are the Alleluia and the Gloria. Neither the hymn known as the Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest) nor the Alleluia verse sung before the Gospel is permitted during the entire 40 days of Lent (with a few small exceptions, St Patrick's Day being one).

First of all, the Gloria is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ's birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. It is a similar season of expectation as is Advent, but instead of awaiting Christ's birth from the womb of Mary, the Christian people await Christ's second “birth” from the womb of the sepulchre – the tomb.

Secondly, following this same spirit of exile, the Church joins Moses and the Israelites as they wander in the desert for 40 years. It is a time of penance and purification, one where the faithful join together in saying, *“How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?”* (Psalm 137:4) The word “Alleluia” is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means “praise the Lord” and is thus omitted during Lent.

Our focus in Lent is not in rejoicing, but in mourning our sins, looking at those things that prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once these are removed through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter, for it is not only Christ's resurrection that we celebrate, but our own rebirth in the spirit, so the Christian people *“groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as [children], the redemption of our bodies”* (Romans 8:23) This is not a recent practice, it goes back to Pope Alexander II in 1073. Saying goodbye to the Alleluia gave rise to many quasi-liturgical practices of burying the Alleluia in the ground only for it to be dug up for the Easter vigil. Such practices were inspired by the sentiment of Bishop William Duranti (1296) voiced in his commentaries on the Divine Office: *“We part from the Alleluia as from a beloved friend, whom we embrace many times and kiss on mouth, head and hand, before we leave him.”* So, really we say “farewell”; not so much goodbye as “see you in a few weeks, when we will have the mother of all celebrations at Easter time. Happy Lent.