



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 1ST FEBRUARY 2024



Prayer

God of new life, bless us on our pilgrim way towards the great feast of Easter. Help us to know our need of your presence, breathe your Spirit into our reading of the Word, teach us to set aside whatever hinders our true discipleship so that we may come to life in abundance and know in our hearts the joy of the Gospel. 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.

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

Accord Special collection will be taken up **today**. It replaces the usual Share collection. Often in our culture, the Church's teaching on marriage and family life is presented in a negative tone. Yet the basics of family life is a dream that many seek to realise. **ACCORD** exist to help people realise that dream.
Please give generously

Last Weekend Collections:

P. Dev.: €750 Common: € 1,090 Share: €992
Thanks to all who contribute

READINGS

1st Reading: Genesis: 9:8-15
Psalms: (Ps. 24)
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Parishioners Rosary for Lent

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



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:

Pauline Brennan nee Dempsey, formerly Tinakill, late of Wimbledon, England

Saturday 6pm

Month's mind: Anthony Johnson, Julia Bambrick
Anniversaries: Dora & Patrick O'Donoghue, Mary Bolger (1st A), Dora Phelan, Tom McEvoy, Pat & Lucy Hannigan, Maura Coughlan, Cyril McGovern, Anna & Donal McGovern, Patrick, Elizabeth & Billy Farrelly, Mary, Patrick & Des Howard, Maureen O'Connor (1st A), Nel & Michael McCormack, Robert & Myra Osborne, Patsy O'Neill, Hughie Owens (7th A), Niamh Byrne, Margaret Watts (21st A), Richard 'Dick' Watts (3rd A), Alan Wallis (13th A), Bridget 'Bid' Mahon Forkin, Patricia Towell nee Harris, John Foley (3rd A), Seán Kelly, Jane & William Holligan, John Burke (12th A), Brendan Burke (4th A), Mary Burke (3rd A) George & Mary Roche, Kathleen Kelly, Patrick Gately

9 am Sunday Barrowhouse: John Murphy

10.30 am: Month's mind: Eric Butler

Anniversaries: Hugh 'Sam' Owens, Dec. members of Owens family, Dora Whelan, John McDonnell, Quentin Doran O'Reilly (12th A), Bernie Curtis Kelly, Paddy Murphy, Jimmy Curtis, Nel & Michael McCormack, Hughie Owens, Patricia Towell nee Harris, Paul, Jane & Christopher Dunne, William, Elizabeth & Phyllis Howard, James & Mary Myron, Jane & William Holligan

12 noon: Birthday Remembrance: Maureen Robinson
Anniversaries: Nel & Michael McCormack, Robert & Myra Osborne, Patrick Roche Snr. Tommy Hunter, Patricia Towell nee Harris, Jane & William Holligan

Monday 9.30 am: Baby Shauna Liddane King, Thomas Moran, Special Intention

Tues. 9.30 am: Special Intention, Frank & Norah Flahive

Wednes. 9.30 am: Donor's Intention, Special Intention

Thur 9.30am:

Birthday remembrance: Jimmy Connell
Anniv. Angela Kelly (5th A) Michael Wall (5th A), Niamh Byrne

Friday 9.30am: Noel Eston, John Cummins, Mary Owens, Damian Doran O'Reilly (32nd A), Mary Byrne (53rd A)

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 has a short film and runs each Monday during Lent at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

16 participants max, minimum of 8. Each session will last 1 hour approx.

If you are interested in growing in your faith please contact our Parish Pastoral Worker – Conor McCann 086-7905654 or by email: conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie See Parish Website and Facebook page

PARISH TEAM

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ATHY PARISH OFFICE

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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

LOURDES PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Moone, Narraghmore, Athy

25th Aug– 1st Sept 2024

Cost: €975

Spiritual Director Fr. Francis McCarthy
Contact

Christopher Rowan 087 2707 182

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

See donate button on parish website

Thanks to all you have already subscribed

Athy Parish website
www.parishofathy.ie

Parish Radio 107.9 fm

MERCY ASSOCIATE MEETING, Monday, 19th Feb 2024, 7.30pm,

at Parish Centre, Mount Hawkins

(Lay Associates of Mercy Sisters)



CATECHETICAL CORNER – Fast and Abstinence

During Lent we often talk about Fasting and Abstinence, but what does the Church require us to do and what do we mean by Fasting and Abstinence?

Fasting is listed as one of the Precepts (*the fifth*) of the Church - (*see the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2043*). The precepts of the Church are duties that the Catholic Church requires of all the faithful. Also called the commandments of the Church, they are binding under pain of mortal sin, but the point is not to punish. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (*CCC*) explains, the binding nature “is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth of love of God and neighbour.” (If we follow these commands, we’ll know that we’re headed in the right direction spiritually.

The Church defines fasting as: “... having one normal meal during the day...; it is allowed to take a very light breakfast and a very light dinner if the principal meal is lunchtime; or a very light lunch if the principal heavy meal is done at night. During the rest of the day, one must not eat, taking into account that water and medication do not break the fast.”

Abstinence on the other hand entails the avoidance of meat and poultry on certain days throughout the year. There are certain days that are Fasting Days and other days that are Fasting and Abstinence. These days are called ‘*Penitential Days*’ “penitential days are prescribed on which the Christian faithful devote themselves in a special way to prayer, perform works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence...” “Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.” (CIC # 1251)

“The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year.” (CIC 1252). On the other hand; “The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year...” (CIC 1252). Fasting in this manner is not required of those who for health or medical reasons should not fast. Perhaps we could fast from something else like television, our phone or our favourite snacks

Why do we fast? We fast in the example of Jesus who spent 40 days in the desert (see Mark 1:12). We fast because all the saints tell us it is a vital spiritual tool: St. Augustine: “Fasting purifies the soul. It lifts up the mind, and it brings the body into subjection to the spirit. It makes the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of desire, puts out the flames of lust and enkindles the true light of chastity.” St Thomas Aquinas: “...For we fast for three purposes: to restrain the desires of the flesh; to raise the mind to contemplate sublime things; to make satisfaction for our sins. These are good and noble things, Lent is blessing given to us to grow in our relationship with GOD and one another, a springtime of spiritual re-growth.

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**
(day of referendum)

&

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

Table Quiz

East Laois Macra na Feirme
are holding a table quiz Friday
23rd February in Fleming’s Bar,
Ballylinan @ 8.30pm

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



Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors of church

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? In the words of Pope Francis:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.