



THE PARISH  
OF ATHY

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



**MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 3RD MARCH 2024**

**PRAYER**

God of surprises, surprise us again with the paradox of your power and wisdom in our lives. May we never grow complacent about your astonishing love, that we may say with St Paul, the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Amen.



**PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:**

*Mary Johnson, Galway*  
*Anna Lawlor, Mountbrook, Barrowhouse*  
*Conor Tierney, New Zealand, grandfather formerly of Athy.*  
*Anne Robert Shaw nee McHugh, South Africa*  
*Colm O'Hagan, who died in Australia*

**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

**Congratulations** to Gael Scoil Ath Í children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation Friday.

**Last Weekend Collections:**

P. Dev.: €762 **Common:** €1,355 **Share** €1,171  
*Thanks to all who contribute*

**Saturday 6pm**

**Month's mind:** Laurence Keane, Noel McLoughlin  
**Birthday remembrance:** Mary Nugent

**Anniversaries:**

Joe & Bridget Doyle, Pdraig Healy, Tommy Buckley (1st A), Pat Dunne, Jane Davis, Paddy & Mary Flynn, John & Mary Fitzpatrick, Josie Byrne, Brian & Sheila Kelly, Ellen Byrne, Willie & Annie Hutchinson, Dec. members of Hutchinson family, Tim Kelly, Billy, Elizabeth & Patrick Farrelly, Sheila Moore, Sean May, James Eaton (36th A), John Foley, Dec. members of Foley family, Brian & Sheila Kelly, Martina Lynch, Rosanna & Michael O'Connor

**9 am Sunday Barrowhouse:**

Brigid 'Birdie' Brennan (1st A), Mary & James Brennan, Dec. members of Brennan family

**10.30 am: Anniversaries:**

Pdraig Healy, Sean May, Isabella Mullery, Paddy Mullery, John Hickey

**12 noon: Anniversaries:**

Pdraig Healy, Gerry Byrne, James Lawler, Dommy Moloney, Sean May, Denis Farrell, Ann McHugh, Robert Shaw, Gerry Conroy

**Monday 9.30 am:** Sheila Stynes, Theresa Roycroft, Margaret & Joe Carty, Ellen Byrne, Billy, Elizabeth & Patrick Farrelly,

**Months Mind:** Michael McInerney

**Tues. 9.30 am:** Rose Donovan (46th A), Special Intention, Dicky Kelly, Jack & Esther Dunne, Billy Ryan Special Intention,

**Wednes. 9.30 am:** Donal Chambers, Gertie Gray, Annie McDonald, James Eaton (36th A), Declan Murphy, Special Intention,

**Thur 9.30am:** Golden Book

**Friday 9.30am:** Joe & Mary McDermott, Martina Kilbride, Mary Barry, P.J. Leonard, Annie Mc Dermott, Derek Donohue, Margaret McDermott, Florrie Crowe, Mary Donovan

**Parishioners Rosary for Lent**

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



**READINGS**

**1st Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17

*(shorter version 20:1-3.7-8.12-17)*

**Psalm:** (Ps. 18)

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

**Gospel:** John 2:13-25

**Lenten Prayer Evenings**

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

- **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.

Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors of church



**St. Patrick's Day 17th March**

cards emblems and badges available from Parish Office



**DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK**

takes place  
**SATURDAY,**  
27TH APRIL 2024

## Irish Episcopal Conference Message re: Referendums on March 8th

This reflections is to help inform the consciences of Christians and others who are concerned to preserve and foster the dignity and value of family life and motherhood.



Upon his arrival in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families 2018, Pope Francis met with representatives of civil, cultural and religious life, including the Taoiseach and members of the Government. He 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,*”

**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” “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.

Care within the family and the wider community takes many forms. 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 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. **The role of mothers should continue to be cherished in our Constitution.**

### 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 afternoon)  
**Sat:** 10.30am-12.30 only

**Athy Parish website**  
www.parishofathy.ie

**Parish Radio** 107.9 fm



**54 Day Novena**  
to  
**Our Mother**  
**Mary of Ireland,**  
to retention  
**‘mother’ and**  
**‘family’**  
in the Irish  
constitution,  
continues to  
Friday 8th March,  
**day of**  
**referendum**  
&  
Saturday, 9th  
March- 4th April,  
Divine Mercy  
Sunday  
**Our Lady of**  
**Knock,**

### CATECHETICAL CORNER - A.C.T.S. OF PRAYER.

The three key words associated with Lent: Pray, Fast & Give. Prayer is an expression of our spirituality. Spirituality is how we relate to GOD.

No two human relationships are the same, so too, no two ‘spiritual’ relationships are the same. How you relate to GOD is different to how I relate to GOD. There is no right or wrong way. So, during Lent it is not about the quantity of our prayer, but praying smarter. Our prayer should be comprised of A.C.T.S., that is: Adoration, Contrition, Thanks and Supplication.

**Adoration:** Try to spend a few moments every day adoring or praising GOD. You don’t have to visit the Church to do this, but before the Blessed Sacrament or at Mass is better. Perhaps just repeat this simple prayer slowly a number of times throughout the day: “I adore You O Christ and I praise You.”

**Contrition:** try this if you have time before bed, use that time to look back over your day to see what you might have done better, and maybe bring what you find to the Sacrament of Confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the most perfect way to express our contrition.

**Thanks:** Take a while each day during your prayer to say thank you to GOD. Foster an ‘Attitude of Gratitude’ by thinking about all that you have to be grateful for; a bed...a cup of tea, a shower.. your health. Count your blessings and give thanks.

**Supplication:** means bringing our intentions to GOD. If you are praying for someone, try to mention their name, if there are too many to mention, or you can’t remember them all, just commend them all to GOD, knowing that HE has ‘called them by name’. Another ‘S’ is **Surrender**. Often, we think that if by storming Heaven, GOD will do what I want. GOD is beyond manipulation. Let’s surrendering everything to GOD, who knows what we need Try this simple prayer: “Jesus, I surrender myself to YOU, take care of everything.” During Lent, pray smarter not harder and let yourself be loved.