



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 15TH DECEMBER 2024

Prayer

Loving God you read our hearts and know us better than we know ourselves. Open our hearts to the peace which you alone can give. Let us have that joy in believing which will strengthen our faith in you, the source of all that is good. Amen.



CHURCH NOTICES

Weekend Mass times: 6pm, 10.30am & 12 noon & Barrowhouse Sunday at 9 am Weekday Mass times: 9.30 am. Rosary at 9.10 am.



If you wish to have your Deceased loved ones included on the **Christmas Day List** to be remembered in Masses during the Christmas, please drop their names into the Parish office by Thursday next 19th Dec. 1.30pm. This is to ensure their names are printed and displayed at the side altar, near the crib over Christmas.

Area Distributors are reminded to collect their bundle of **Christmas Timetables** and Christmas Dues envelopes from behind the high Altar after Mass.

The **Rite of Reconciliation** will take next Saturday 21st December at the opening rite of the 6pm Mass. A number of priests will be present to hear confession.

Last weekend collections:

Common: €905

S.V.P. €13,280

P. Dev.: €2,697 total last weekend including **annual donations** amounting to €2,039 and weekly donations of €658 *Thanks to all who contributed*

Bambinelli Blessing

The beautiful Advent Tradition, Bambinelli Sunday, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. The tradition follows that on Gaudete (*Rejoicing*) Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, children (*and adults*) bring their Baby Jesus figures from the crib to St. Peter's Square where the Pope will bless both the people and the figurines. We will celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" **at all Masses this weekend**, Gaudete Sunday, 3rd Sunday of Advent. You are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from your home to Mass that weekend to be blessed. Families can even make their own "bambinelli" if they want. It is suggested that following the blessing, you take your "bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it, and save it for Christmas morning. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas, when together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib, and have a home blessing of the Nativity for your whole family.



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mass Bouquets, Christmas cards & Church Art Calendars are available in Parish office.

Office will close for Christmas holidays on Saturday next 21st December @ 12.30.



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Kathleen Meany, Oaklawns

Esther Day nee Ryan, Greenhills

Canon John Fitzgibbon, former parish priest of Lusk

Joseph Meehan

Saturday 6pm

Anniversaries: Ben Whelan, Niall Dunne, Breda Dunne, Christy & Lil Dalton, Michael Piert (20th A), Michael & Alice Piert, Sheelah & Joe Fennelly, Michael & Annie Dooley, Rita Quinn (8th A), Una Gaule, May Nolan, Dec. members of Murphy family, Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill, Kathleen O'Brien (14th A), Mollie Hamilton, Jack O'Keeffe, Cissie O'Keeffe, Bridget & Andrew O'Brien, Betty Wallace (2nd A) Harriett Comerford, Gay Coffey, Zoltan Zinn Collis, Edit Zinn Collis, Kitty Mulhall, John & Johnny Mulhall, Paddy Mulhall, Dec. mem. of Mulhall family, Marion Byrne, Dec. mem of Byrne family, Kathleen 'Kitty' Foley, Dec. mem of Foley family, Judy Mahon, Roseanne Price, Jim & Winnie Freeman, Loretto Kelly, Thomas & Brigid Ayres, Carmel Ayres, Stephen Leonard, Dec. mem of Leonard family, Declan Ayres, Michael & Margaret Byrne, Jean McLoughlin, James Haughton

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Edward Whelan, Ned & Betty Whelan (Mount brook), Dec. mem of Whelan & Brennan family.

Sunday 10.30am: Birthday Remembrance:

Bessie Casey, **Anniversaries:** Michael & Annie Dooley, Valerie Wilson, John Kavanagh, Michael Piert Jnr. (20th A), Michael & Alice Piert, Joseph & Julia Martin, Rita Quinn (8th A), Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill, Mollie Hamilton, Bridget & Andrew O'Brien, Jack Brogan, Dolores Connell Costello, Paddy Casey, Peter & Mary Dunne, Paddy & Brigid Bowden, Neddy, Molly & Karen Hughes, Liam Hughes, Dec. mem of Hughes family, Geoff, Ellen & Gavin Eastwood, Teresa & Sam Hallows, Shelly & Hugh McDonnell, Dell & Danny Kane, Seamus Lynch, Stephen Lewis, Dec. residents of Woodstock St., Minches Tce., & St. Martin's Tce., Eileen Meredith, Michael & Margaret Byrne, Dec mem of Bowen Family, Michael Rainsford Snr, & Jnr., Maria Rainsford Dec mem of Meehan & Rainsford Family

Sunday 12 noon: Anniversaries: John Kavanagh, Michael Piert Jnr. (20th A) Michael & Alice Piert, Rita Quinn (8th A), Maurice Kane, Frances Kane, Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill, Mollie Hamilton, Sara Davis (40th A), Dec. mem of Davis family, Dolores Connell Costello, Bill & May Heffernan, Peg Hemenstall, Mike Breslin, Maisie Breslin, Michael Rainsford Snr, & Jnr., Dec mem of Meehan & Rainsford Family Michael & Margaret Byrne, Maria Rainsford, Michael & Margaret Byrne

Monday 9.30am: Molly Rowan, Bertie & Bridie Doyle, Joseph Martin, Dolores Connell Costello, Eddie Doyle, Patrick Stanley,

Tues. 9.30 am: Ben Whelan, Mollie Hamilton, John Ryan, Andrew Conlan

Wednes. 9.30 am: Christopher & Margaret Nolan, Mary & Christopher Cleary, Dec. mem. of Cleary & Troy families, Niall Dunne, Breda Dunne, Kathleen O'Brien (14th A)

Thur. 9.30 am: Paul McHugh, Paula Winchester Harvey, Joe McNamara, Ellen Bastable

Friday 9.30am: Betty & Paddy Brennan, Dec. mem. of Brennan & Bambrick fam., Michael Raddie, Tom & Jean Donohue, Derek Donohue, Dec. mem. of Phillips & Donohue fam., John, June & Mollie Fingleton, Dec. mem. of Fingleton & Fleming families, Betty & Pat Easton, Josie Bolger, Bridget Morrissey, Martin Phillips (1st A), Martin Fox, Mary Moran

HOLY HOUR

in Parish Church Tuesday's will be resumes Tuesday 7th January, 2-3pm

HOLY HOUR

St. Mary's Church Barrowhouse
Tuesday's from 7pm-8pm

SVP Church Collection 7th & 8th December 2024

St. Michael €6,903

Barrowhouse €1,751

Kilmead €1,721

Ballymount €732

Crookstown €800

Moone €540

Ballylinan €833

Total in 2024 €13,280

Total in 2023 €15,210

Thank to all who contributed

ATHY MERCY ASSOCIATE MEETING

Monday, 16th December at 7.30pm in Parish Centre,
Mount Hawkins



CATECHETICAL CORNER -- "Reasons to be cheerful..."

In the late 1970's and early 1980's there was an English rock band called Ian Dury and the Blockheads who had a hit with a song called "Reasons to be Cheerful...". Although some of the reasons articulated in the song might not be appropriate for a Parish Newsletter, the theme is a good one. As we approach the end of Advent it might worth looking at the nature of Joy and our reasons to be cheerful or joyful.

Firstly, Joy is listed among the fruits of the Holy Spirit (*Gal. 5:22-23*). The fruits of the Holy Spirit are the evidence that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives. Joy, in the Christian sense, is not happiness or even a giddiness or good humour. Joy is more than a temporary happiness; joy is lasting and based in more than simply an emotional reaction to our circumstances: it is an active choice of attitude. As followers of Christ, we rejoice, because in him, we have redemption. The reasons for our Joy are, in line with the song, threefold, namely Christ's life, death and resurrection. As one Psalm says: "*My lips will shout for joy as I sing your praise; my soul, too, which you have redeemed.*" – (*Psalm 71:23*)

When we consider our Blessed Mother we see that she too had this joy; "*My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in GOD my saviour...*" (*Lk. 1:46-47*). Christ Himself wanted us to have this Joy; "*I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.*" (*Jn.15:11*) What things are these that Jesus was saying? "*If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in HIS love.*" (*Jn. 15:10*) For Christians, our Joy is in the Lord, it says in another Psalm: "*Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.*" (*Ps: 33:22-23*)

When the troubles of this world assail us, we can rest in the comfort that only God can bring, and have joy, no matter our circumstances. As we celebrate Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday let's take a moment or two to pray with the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass, "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near*".

ATHY MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

present 31st Anniversary of
While Shepherds Watched

Tuesday next 17th December @ 7.30 p.m.

St Michael's Parish Church.

Tickets €10 available from JM computers or at the door
on the night

Communion for the Sick or Housebound.

If you would like to have Holy Communion brought to a family member or friend who may be sick or housebound, please contact one of the priests or the Parish Office.

Holy Communion can only be brought by a priest or a commissioned minister of the Eucharist and a Pyx, which has been blessed, is the only means by which the Sacred Host can be carried.

Out of respect for the Sacred Host, Holy Communion should never be taken home in a piece of tissue or an envelope.

Advent Prayer:

Guided Meditation on the Gospel for Sunday will be live on the Athy Parish Facebook Page on Tuesday evening at 7:30pm.

If you cannot join live it will remain on the page for you to meditate on the Advent Gospels at a more convenient time.

There is also Lectio Divina in Athy Church every Thursday morning during Advent after morning Mass. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend

Enrolment in Scoil Phadraig Naofa - September 2025

Enrolments will take place for pupils wishing to commence in either Junior Infant or ASD Classes for September 2025 from

Friday 10th January, 2025 – Friday 31st January, 2025.

READINGS

First Zephaniah 3:14 -18;

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-4

Second: Philippians 4:4 -7;

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Parish Office & Shop Opening:

Mon 2.15- 4 pm

Tues & Wednes: 9.30am –1.30 pm & 2 -4 pm,

Thur 9.30-1.30 pm, **Friday,** 9.30am-1.30pm.

Sat 10.30am -12.30

CLOSED HOLYDAYS & Bank Holidays

Phone: 059 86 38391

Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

Parish website: www.parishofathy.ie



PARISH TEAM

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Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors of
church