



THE PARISH  
OF ATHY

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



## MASS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

### Prayer

Stir up our hearts Lord, with a great longing for you in our lives.  
Let us feel again that deep restlessness of heart, the royal road to you.  
Amen.



### PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

#### Recently Deceased:

#### Sat. 6pm Vigil:

**Month's mind:** Josephine Farrell, Des Moore

**Birthday remembrance:** Noel McLoughlin

#### Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Mary & John Murphy, Joe & Margaret Carty, Ann Carolan, Bob Gannon, Margaret Kelly (2nd A), Patrick Bolger, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Rita Delaney, Alice Ashe, Olive Harte (7th A), Richard 'Dick' Norris, Johnny Coughlan, Theo & Adam Davis, William Lawler, Mag Lawler, Helen Lawler, William Lawler Jnr., Teresa Hickey, Mary Perse, Dec. mem of Perse family, Edward, Margaret & Anthony Ryan, Mairead Byrne, Breda Clarke, Josephine Bovey, Gay Coffee, Tom Fox, Oliver Callaghan, Mary, Brigid & Lizzie Kelly, Baby Brian Kelly, Special Intention, Mary & James Flinter, Doreen Behan, Eileen Tufo, George Flinter, Mary, Ned & Michael Perse, Joe, Hughie & Paul Perse, Joe, Joseph & Ger Perse, Wynne O'Neill, Mickey, Josue & Pat Perse, Stephen Clark, Rosie & Paddy Keogh, Des Ryan, Bobby Mahon, Joe & Julia Walsh, Martin Casey, Ken & Teresa Wakeman

**Sunday 9am Barrowhouse:** Theo Davis (27th A), Adam Davis (24th A),

#### Sunday 10.30am:

**Month's mind:** Paul David Curran

#### Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Tony Bracken, Anne Spring, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Kathleen & Jim Byrne, Richard 'Dick' Norris, Theo & Adam Davis, William Lawler, Mary Lawler, Helen Lawler, William Lawler Jnr. Edward, Margaret & Anthony Ryan, Mairead Byrne, Mary Molly Kirwan, Neddy Kirwan, Breda Clarke, Josephine Bovey, Tom Fox, Margaret Bracken, Declan & Fergal Bracken, Oliver Callaghan

#### Sunday 12 noon:

#### Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Tom Murphy, Rhona Healy, Tony Bracken, Lucyna Rutowicz (1st A), Theo & Adam Davis, William Lawler, Mary Lawler, Helen Lawler, William Lawler Jnr. Edward, Margaret & Anthony Ryan, Mairead Byrne, Breda Clarke, Josephine Bovey Tom Fox, Ellen Bridgette

**Monday 9.30 am:** Donors Intention

**Tues. 9.30 am:** Rita & Matt Handy, Patrick Aldridge, Margaret McCann, Thanksgiving

**Wednes. 9.30 am:** Ann Horgan, Ciss Webster,

Dec. mem of Webster family, Mary Perse, Dec. mem of Perse family

**Thur 9.30am:** Golden Book

**Friday 9.30am:** Altar list of The Dead

### 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.

This is the First Sunday in **Advent**.

Walking Advent with Scripture is an Advent Calendar with a scripture reflection for each day during Advent, There are some copies at the doors of the Church and also available on our parish Website and Facebook page.

#### Christmas Altar List

If you wish to have your loved ones remembered during our Christmas Masses and printed in Church, please hand in their names to the Parish office by Friday 19th December.

**SVP Annual Church Collection** takes place next weekend, 6th /7th December 2025. It will replace the Share collection.

You can also make a donation to our local conference in the following way:-

Drop it into our Parish Office, Athy, where there is a collection box.

Leave it into our charity shop Vincents, on William Street, Athy.

You can also post it to head office- (by using the blue envelope)

SVP House, 91-92 Sean Mc Dermott Street, Dublin 1..  
Freepost F3507.

To donate on line: [svp.ie](http://svp.ie) or call 0818176176

*We are asking for your support this year as the collection has a significant impact on our work that we carry out in the community.*

Last Weekend Collections

**P. Dev.:** €2,900 of which €2,290 annuals & €610 weekly

**Common:** €1,320 **Share:** €990

### ADVENT PRAYER EVENING

for Athy, Narraghmore, Moone & Castledermot  
on

Tuesday, 9th December at 7pm in Castledermot Church

**2026 Church Art Calendars & Sacred Heart Calendars**  
on sale in Parish Office

also

Children's **Advent** Calendars and Advent Candles  
Christmas Mass Bouquets, 'Greetings from Athy' Christmas cards, cribs & Christmas gifts.

### WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

Sunday, 21st December at 7.30 pm in St Michael's  
Tickets €15. See notice boards

### READINGS Year C

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2: 1-5

**Psalms:** Ps 121: 1-2.4-9

**Second Reading:**

Romans 13:11-14

**Gospel:** Luke 23. 35-43

Children Liturgy Sheets  
available at doors of church



**PARISHES OF ATHY, MOONE & NARRAGHMORE  
PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026**

7 nights 4 Star Hotel Padoue 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Cost €995 pps

Spiritual Director Fr. Francis McCarthy

Saving Club available.

Further details contact - Christopher Rowan 087 2707 182

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY – HAVE YOUR SAY**

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland. The survey is school specific and **needs to be responded to by all parents and prospective parents locally.**

It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic education for their children, and the support for sacramental preparation available in Catholic schools, would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges,

**please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student.**

Survey can be accessed at [www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey/](http://www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey/).

Closing date Tuesday, December 16.

**Holy Hour** every Tuesday in **St Michael's Church 2.30 - 3.30pm**

**Holy Hour** every Tuesday in **Crookstown Church 7pm-8pm**

**Holy Hour** every Tuesday in **Barrowhouse Church 7pm –8pm**

**Holy Hour St Ita's, Kilmead** on First Fridays of the month **7-8pm**

**CATECHETICAL CORNER – 12 STARS**

Did you know that the European Flag, 12 gold stars on a blue background, was designed by a Catholic who worked for the Council of Europe? It is based on the Miraculous Medal and was officially adopted as the flag of Europe on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary – 1955.

Why does Mary wear a crown of 12 stars? The crown of 12 stars is deeply significant and represents many things. There is one star for each of the twelve Apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel, representing the fact that Mary holds a unique place in salvation history and stands as queen of both the Old and New Testaments.

Her crown also represents what are called the Twelve Privileges of Mary. Traditionally theologians have spoken of Mary as having twelve special privileges, namely: *Her Immaculate Conception, Her perpetual virginity, Her divine motherhood, Her freedom from actual sin, Her fullness of grace, Her role as Mother of the Church, Her Assumption into heaven, Her coronation as Queen of Heaven, Her role as Mediatrix of graces, Her spiritual motherhood of all humanity, Her role in the work of redemption and Her perfect union with Christ's will.*

The crown of 12 stars also represents the twelve virtues of Mary. Many Catholics have a great devotion to Mary. Many people will recite the Rosary every day, or have other prayers and devotions in Her honour. According to St Louis Marie De Montfort, who wrote, what is considered one of the classic books on devotion to Mary, entitled; 'A TREATISE ON TRUE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN', true devotion resides not in our outward expressions of devotion such as; the Rosary, Marian shrines, statues etc., however good and meritorious these are. Rather, he maintains, true devotion resides in imitating Her virtues in our everyday lives. Her twelve virtues are often listed as: *Faith, Hope, Love, Chastity* – (in accordance with our state of life), *Poverty, Obedience, Humility, Patience, Mercy, Joy, Gratitude, Prayer.* Mary is considered to be a model of these virtues and true devotion to Her is to be found in our striving to imitate these virtues.

In addition, there are also what are called Ten Evangelical Virtues, which are: *Most Pure* (implying purity and innocence), *Most Prudent* (implying wisdom and discernment), *Most Humble, Most Faithful, Most Devout* (implying devotion and prayer), *Most Obedient, Most Poor, Most Patient, Most Merciful, Most Sorrowful.* These are evangelical virtues as they are to be found in the Gospels. You may even recognise some of them from the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*the Litany of Loreto*).

As we begin Advent, in which Mary is a central figure, let's try to become more Mary like, let our devotion to Mary be more than outward expressions, rather let it be rooted in virtue and holiness. As the concluding prayer of the Rosary says: "...that meditating on these mysteries we may imitate what they contain..."

**PARISH TEAM**



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**All Night Vigil in Knock**

(7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December)

The parishes of Athy Narraghmore & Moone are running a bus to the

**All Night Vigil in Knock on**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December for the Solemnity of  
The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary (Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December)**



The night begins with Confessions from 10pm. Ceremony being at 12midnight on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec and continues into the early morning and concludes with Mass at 4am.

The vigil includes Rosary, stations of the Cross, Holy Hour, guest speaker, quiet time for prayer and offering sacred space to reflect on Mary's Role in the life of the Church and to seek her intercession. Cost of the Bus is €40.

Bus will depart from the following areas on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Castledermot Church at 4:30pm Moone Church 4:45pm

St. Michael's Athy, **5:15pm** Stradbally 5:30pm

Portlaoise 5.45pm Mountmellick 6pm

Stopping briefly in Athlone and arriving in knock at 10pm approx.

Bus will leave Knock at 5:30am Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

A Non-refundable deposit of €20 for bus is required to secure your seat. For further information contact Peggy Whelan on 086 849 2381.

**KILBERRY NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT**

Enrol on line at [www.kilberryns.ie](http://www.kilberryns.ie) or

contact school office 059 8638448 or

Email: [kilberry.ias@gmail.com](mailto:kilberry.ias@gmail.com) for enrolment forms

Enrolment closes December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Gael Scoil Átha Í Enrolment**

is now open for the 2026/27 academic year. The deadline for applications is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

No open day -New parents are always welcome to visit and have a look around and meet our wonderful staff, just call the office or reach out to our social media platforms.

**Churchtown Annual Christmas Goose Club,**

next Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, from 2pm in Castlemitchell Hall.

All welcome.

**Online Advent Retreat**

*The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a FREE OF CHARGE Advent retreat*

Visit our website [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com) or click on this link [here](#) to register/find out more.

The Retreat giver, Fr. John Harris OP, The course consists of four 15 minute recorded presentations that is available from the first Sunday of Advent and each subsequent Sunday. So today, 30 Nov there will be access to one recording and on the following Sunday access to two recordings and so on. Participants can watch the films whenever suits them, It's free of charge and people can register to participate at any time during Advent.

Please find more information about the retreat and how to register [here](#)

You can view Fr John Harris' welcome here at this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awPULbxRS2g&feature=youtu.be>