



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14TH DECEMBER 2025

Prayer

We believe, loving God, that you
take delight in all you have
made. Open up in us again the
springs of joy, that we may
delight in you, our true joy.
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.

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

Walking Advent with Scripture is an Advent Calendar with a scripture reflection for each day during Advent, some copies are available at the doors of the Church and 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 next 19th December.

Reminding to **Area Distributors** that bundles of **Christmas timetables & Due envelopes** are ready for collection from behind high Altar. Please distribute them in your area.

Last Weekend Collections

P. Dev.: €2,243 of which €1,562 annuals & €681 weekly
Common: €1,225

Thanks to all who contributed

SVP

Church collection 6th/7th December
raised a total of **€9,154** in this parish
€7,403 in St. Michael's Athy &
€1,751 in St. Mary's Barrowhouse

A big thanks to all who supported the collection.

Athy Musical & Dramatic Society
present

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED
Drive the Dark Winter Away

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

A celebration through music, prose & poetry

Ticket €15 on the door on the night
JM Computers & Eventbrite.ie

ADVENT PRAYER EVENING

Parish Partnership of Athy Narraghmore Moone &
Castledermot which was postponed on Tuesday last due to
weather will now be held Thursday 18th December
in the Church of the Assumption, Castledermot at 7pm.
All are welcome.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Sat. 6pm Vigil: Month's mind: Martin Brennan

Anniversaries & Rem: Ben Whelan (5th A),
David & Mikey Harris (20th A), Fintan Lalor (20th A),
Michael Desmond, Mollie Rowan, Rita Quinn (9th A),
Michael & Delia Connolly, Michael 'Gunner' Connolly,
Harriet & Stephen Connolly, Patrick, Mary & Declan Roche,
Thomas Stynes (70th A), Christy Dalton, Lil Dalton, Martin Tynan,
Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill (4th A), Patrick Perse (1st A), Michael &
Annie Dooley, Eileen O'Neill, Ted O'Neill, Mollie Hamilton,
Cassie O'Keeffe, Jack O'Keeffe, Kitty Mulhall (48th A), Michael
& Mary Scally, Derek & Maisie Candy, Dec. mem. of Candy &
Kelly families, Una Gaule, Dec. mem. of Murphy family, Tomas
Stynes, Nora Mary Gallagher, Thomas & Bridget Ayres, Dec. mem.
of Ayres family, Stephen & John Leonard, Dec. mem. of Leonard
family, Martin Conroy, William, Margaret & Jack Brogan, Jack &
Peggy McDonagh, Neddy, Molly & Karen Hughes, Christy, Peggy
& Tony Bracken, Liam Hughes, Dec. mem. of Hughes family,
Shelley & Hugh McDonnell, Seamus Lynch, Kathleen & John
Haskins, Ellie, Jeff & Gavin Eastwood, Teresa & Sam Hallows,
Paddy & Brigid Bowden, Dec. mem. of Bowden family, P.J. &
Nellie Bowden, Ned Conway, Dec. neighbours & friends from
Woodstock St. Minche's Terrace, & St. Martin's Tce., Betty
Wallis, Leo Delaney

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Edward Whelan, Mary Ciss Brennan,
Ned & Betty Whelan, Dec. mem. of Whelan & Brennan families

Sunday 10.30am: Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Valerie Wilson, Michael & Delia Connolly, Michael 'Gunner'
Connolly, Harriet & Stephen Connolly, Patrick, Michael & Declan
Roche, Mollie Rowan, Eileen O'Neill, Ted O'Neill, Mollie
Hamilton, Cassie O'Keeffe, Jack O'Keeffe, Elizabeth & Barney
Doyle, Sara & John Davis, Neddy, Molly & Karen Hughes, Christy,
Peggy & Tony Bracken, Liam Hughes, Dec. mem. of Hughes
family, Shelley & Hugh McDonnell, Seamus Lynch, Kathleen &
John Haskins, Ellie, Jeff & Gavin Eastwood, Teresa & Sam
Hallows, Paddy & Brigid Bowden, Dec. mem. of Bowden family,
P.J. & Nellie Bowden, Ned Conway, Dec. neighbours & friends
from Woodstock St. Minche's Terrace, & St. Martin's Tce
Mary Dunne (32nd anniv), John Cummins

Sunday 12 noon: Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Michael & Delia Connolly, Michael 'Gunner' Connolly, Harriett &
Stephen Connolly, Patrick, Michael & Declan Roche, Joseph 'Joe'
O'Neill, Mollie Rowan, Derek & Maisie Candy, Dec. mem. Of
Candy & Kelly families, Peter Fleming, Nora Mary Gallagher,
Pat Flood, Jimmy, Mary & Noelle Sweeney, Neddy, Molly &
Karen Hughes, Christy, Peggy & Tony Bracken, Liam Hughes,
Dec. mem. of Hughes family, Shelley & Hugh McDonnell, Seamus
Lynch, Kathleen & John Haskins, Ellie, Jeff & Gavin Eastwood,
Teresa & Sam Hallows, Paddy & Brigid Bowden, Dec. mem. of
Bowden family, P.J. & Nellie Bowden, Ned Conway, Dec.
neighbours & friends from Woodstock St. Minche's Tce, & St.
Martin's Tce., Peg Hempenstall, James Haughton

Monday 9.30 am: Gay Coffey, Zoltan Zinn Collis, Edit Zinn Collis
Jack Brogan, Ann Nugent, Patrick & Rosanna Keegan, Jack &
Kitty Kelly, Geraldine Kelly, Rose & Seamus Heavey, Sheila Melia

Tues. 9.30 am: Mollie Rowan, Rita Quinn (9th A), Patrick Stanley,
Dolores Connell Costello, Thanksgiving to all who sympathised on
the death of Mary O'Toole (Rec D), Successful Operation

Wednes. 9.30 am: Ben Whelan (5th A), Bertie & Bridie Doyle,
Mollie Hamilton, Cassie O'Keeffe, Jack O'Keeffe, Bridget
Morrissey, Esther O'Brien

Thur 9.30am: Niall & Breda Dunne, Michael Connelly,
Christopher & Mary Cleary, Dec. mem. of Cleary & Troy families,
Fr Jim Candon OP

Friday 9.30am: Birthday rem & First Anniv. Celia Kelly
Joe McNamara, Ellen Bastable, Josie Bolger

Holy Hour every Tuesday in **St Michael's Church 2.30 - 3.30pm**
(Final Holy Hour before Christmas is Tue 16th Dec)
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**



READINGS Year C
First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6.10
Psalms: Ps 145: 6-10
Second Reading: James 5: 7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

2026 Sacred Heart Calendars
 on sale in Parish Office also
 Christmas Mass Bouquets,
 'Greetings from Athy' Christmas cards, cribs & Christmas gifts.

PARISH OFFICE OPEN;
Monday 2pm-4pm
Tue & Wednes 9.30-1.30 & 2-4pm
Thur 9.30am-1.30 pm & **Friday** 9.30am-1.30 pm
Saturday: 10.30am-12.30am
Phone: 059 86 38391
Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

CATECHETICAL CORNER — SMALL BUT MIGHTY

There is one word that we say often at Mass and in our own prayer. It comes from a Hebrew word, the root of which is linked to the word for faith. It is short, soft, and familiar. We may say it without thinking. We may even whisper or mumble it, we may not even say it at all. But the word has great power and is deeply significant. In Scripture, it means: *So be it* or *This is true*.

That word is Amen. Amen is not a polite agreement; it is not a 'liturgical full stop' at the end of our prayer. It does not mean: okay, I understand, sure, that's fine, or even, I agree. When we say Amen, we are not making a comment. We are making a covenant. We are, as it were, signing a spiritual agreement/covenant. Which is why Heaven does not hear it casually.

Every covenant in the Bible has words that seal it. Israel said Amen to the Law (Nehemiah 8:6) God Himself is called "The Amen" (Revelation 3:14). Jesus, especially in the Gospel of John, begins His most solemn teachings with 'Amen, Amen, truly I say to you...' (see: Jn.3:3, 5:23, 6:47/55, 10:1/7). Using Amen like this is not mere decoration or emphasis, but rather a binding declaration that what follows is not merely true, but is binding.

The first word that we say at Mass is Amen. It follows the declaration by the priest that we are gathered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also reply with Amen to Collect (*Opening Prayer*), and to the Absolution (*May almighty GOD have mercy on us...*) during the penitential rite. However, there are two uses of Amen during Mass that are the most profound of all. St Padre Pio said of the first of these two, that it should shake the roof of the building, as opposed to being mumbled, if said at all. The first of them comes at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, after the doxology (*Through Him, and with Him and in Him...*), which is to be prayed by the priest alone. The Amen that follows, called the Great Amen, is very often sung, and is our declaration, our yes, to everything that has just taken place. What has just taken place is the making present of the new covenant. It is the crucifixion of Jesus, in non-bloody, sacramental manner, on the altar before us. Just as the people of Israel said 'Amen' to the law/covenant so we too say Amen to the New Covenant in Jesus, sealed with HIS blood.

The second of these is when we present ourselves for Holy Communion. The priest says: *'The Body of Christ'* and we reply 'Amen'. A binding declaration on our part that *'Yes, this is the Body of Christ. I believe that Jesus is really, truly, fully and substantially present in this small white host presented to me'*. It should not be said casually as it is not heard casually. This small but mighty word is very powerful in the ear of GOD., use it wisely, say it thoughtfully and mindfully.

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Liam Rigney P.P. Parochial Hs.,
 1 Stanhope Pl. Athy, Co. Kildare. R14 CH 90.
 Ph: 087 2607377 liam.rigney@dublindiocese.ie
Fr. Tim Hannon C.C. Ph: 059 8630704,
Fr. Francis McCarthy C.C. Ph: 087 6978143.
 Canon Frank McEvoy, 4 Stanhope Pl
Pastoral Workers: Conor McCann, Ph: 086 7905654
 conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie
Natasha Geoghegan Ph: 087 6730300
 natasha.curran@dublindiocese.ie



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/primaryschools/survey/.
 Closing date Tuesday, December 16.

KILBERRY NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Enrol on line at www.kilberryns.ie or
 contact school office 059 8638448 or
 Email: kilberry.ias@gmail.com for enrolment forms
 Enrolment closes December 12th.

Gael Scoil Átha Í Enrolment

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

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.

MANRESA RETREATS

Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality (Clontarf, Dublin) is offering New Year Retreat, Monday, 29 December 2025 - Thursday, 1 January 2026. Welcome the New Year in a spirit of peace and prayer. This silent retreat offers time to reflect on the year gone by, seek God's grace for the year ahead, and be guided by daily prayer and liturgy.

Bookings can be made online (manresa.ie), by email at reception@manresa.ie, or by calling 015529448. Visit www.manresa.ie for more details.



Children Liturgy Sheets
 available at doors of church

Athy Parish website www.parishofathy.ie
Parish Radio 107.9 fm

Online Advent Retreat

The Priory Institute offer a FREE OF CHARGE Advent retreat
Visit our website 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. 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>