



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21ST DECEMBER 2025

Prayer

You are with us always: you are
with us in creation in all its
splendour, in our fellow human
beings in all their generosity, you
are with us in the quiet where we
are alone with.
Amen.



CHURCH NOTICES

Weekend Mass times: 6pm, 10.30am & 12 noon & Barrowhouse Sunday at 9 am

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at **9.30 am**.
Rosary at 9.10 am.

Penitential Service will take place in Athy Church on Monday, 22nd December at 7.30pm with individual confession and absolution.

Healing Mass will take place in Crookstown Church on Tuesday, 23rd December at 7 pm.

Copies of Christmas schedule are ready at doors of the church. Some Area Distributors have yet to collect their bundles from behind high Altar.

Christmas Altar List

Christmas Masses will be offered for those whose names are on the Christmas Altar List. A list will be displayed in Church near the crib and on notice board.



Parish office closes for Christmas Holidays on Tuesday next at 12 noon. Re-opens Wednes. 31st December.

Last Weekend Collections

P. Dev.: €3,006 of which €2,350 annuals & €656 weekly

Common: €1,275 **Share** €935

Thanks to all who contributed

READINGS Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalms: Ps 23: 1-6

Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

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

A celebration through music, prose & poetry

Tickets €15 on the door on the night
See notice boards



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Mary Prendergast, Ballyroe Grangemellon,
John Mealy, Geraldine Rd.

Sat. 6pm Vigil: Month's mind:

Anniversaries & Rem: Gay Coffey, Zoltan Zinn Collis, & Edit Zinn Collis, Margaret & Tony Doyle, Mary Doyle, Dec. mem. of Doyle family, Kathleen & Jack Claire, Michael Eustace, Paddy Quinn, Liam Reid (23rd A), Michael Perse, Veronica & Joseph Bradley, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Brendan Owens (3rd A), James & Eileen Hanratty, Tony Kirwan, Nora Mary Gallagher, Mary Moran, Josie Hunt, Christy Core, Martin Phillips (2nd A), John Flanagan, John & Ellen Kirwan, Chris Kirwin, Kathleen Lynch, Jane McLoughlin, Freida Hoare, May & Joe Kane, Nancy, Sean & Jason Dooley, John Hoare, Maggie & Bill Hoare, Pat Hoare, Bill Hoare, May, Noel & John Murphy, Ann Murphy, Rita & Ted Ward, Kitty Byrne, Mary Hyland, Betty Cusack, Kathleen Mackey, Kathy Brown, Pat Fitzsimons, Martin Holohan, David Whittle, Maureen Coyle Frank Honer, James, Angela & Bridie Davis, Theo & PJ Davis, Bobby Smithers, Joan Davis, Adam & Mary Davis, John & Margaret Grufferty, Rose, Parkie & Johnny Kelly, Chrissie Maher, Joe Morgan, John & Sean O'Neill, Matt Davis, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Claire Phillips, Marian & Michael Byrne

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Denis Dunne (1st A), Bridget Howe, Theresa Phelan, Dec. mem of Phelan family, James, Angela & Bridie Davis, Theo & PJ Davis, Bobby Smithers, Joan Davis, Adam & Mary Davis, John & Margaret Grufferty

Sunday 10.30am: Birthday rem.: Bessie Casey

Anniversaries & Remembrance:

Michael McHugh, Molly Connell, Ellen Fingleton, Liam Owens, Brendan Owens, James, Angela & Bridie Davis, Theo & PJ Davis, Bobby Smithers, Joan Davis, Adam & Mary Davis, John & Margaret Grufferty, Theresa Kinsella, John, Kaite & Maureen Kelly, Joe Markey, Joseph & Julia Martin, Bill Kelly, Paddy Doogue, Brigid & Anthony Talbot, Katie & Joseph Gumley, Patsy, Padraig & Kathleen Gumley, Helen O'Reilly, Rosie Smyth, Jim & Dolly Boylan, Peter & Hughie Boylan, George & Ellen Waugh, Pat & Shay Tompkins, John & Mary Neill, Peter Nolan, Dec. members of Nolan & Doyle families, Edmond Loughman, Denis & Mary Ann Rowan, Patsi, Janie & Lily Rowan, Matt Davis, Eileen Meredith, Ciaran Condron, Sr., Carmel Condron, James & Annie McDonald, James & Mary Martin, Edward Martin, Maurice Fenlon

Sunday 12 noon:

Anniversaries & Remembrance: Denis Chandlers, Michael McHugh, Molly Connell, Margo Heskin, Maura McCauley, Liam Owens, Michael Walsh (5th A), Maurice Kane, Frances Kane, Brendan Owens, Theresa Kinsella, Bill & Mai Heffernan, Nora Mary Gallagher, Michael Ryan, Joe & Kathleen Gibbons, Joe Fennelly, Gertie Fennelly, Teresa Kealy nee Cranny (1st A), William & Bridget Connell, Joseph & Julia Martin, James, Angela & Bridie Davis, Theo & PJ Davis, Bobby Smithers, Joan Davis, Adam & Mary Davis, John & Margaret Grufferty, Edmond Loughman, Denis & Mary Ann Rowan, Patsi, Janie & Lily Rowan Matt Davis

Monday 9.30 am: Michael Eustace, Paddy Quinn, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Teresa Kealy nee Cranny, Mark Brennan

Tues. 9.30 am: Birthday rem. Christy Brogan
Kenneth Phillips Anne Farrell, Paula Winchester Harvey, Paul McHugh, Sean O'Sullivan, Ann Rigney, Christy Brogan, Kenneth Phillips

Wednes. 9.30 am: Thanksgiving for those who sympathised with the family of Pat Delaney, The Bleach (Rec. Dec), Fr. Gerard O'Keeffe

Thursday: Christmas Day

Friday 9.30am: Fidelma Kane, Dec mem of Athy Young at Heart, Anthony Kelly, Patrick Healy, Special Intention

PARISH OFFICE

OPEN;

Monday 22nd Dec 2.15pm-4pm

Tue 23rd Dec: 9.30am -12 noon

(closed for Christmas holidays until Wednes 31st Dec)

Phone: 059 86 38391

Email: athyparishrc@eircom.net

Stock:

2026 Church art & Sacred Heart Calendars

on sale in Parish Office also

Christmas Mass Bouquets,

'Greetings from Athy' Christmas cards, limited cribs sheds & figures, Christmas candles.

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

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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>

CATECHETICAL CORNER – CATECHETICAL CORNER – “O...”

The beautiful Advent hymn “O come, O come Emmanuel...” is a musical setting of a set of prayers or antiphons, called, not surprisingly, the O Antiphons or the Great O Antiphons, that have been in use in the Church, certainly since the seventh/eighth century, and possibly as early as the fifth century. Since that time, this set of seven prayer texts has been sung or recited over the final days of Advent, beginning on the 17th of December, during the daily Liturgy of vespers, or evening prayer. They are voiced in response to the Magnificat (*Luke 1:46-55*), which is recited every evening as part of evening prayer.

Each antiphon/prayer is in two parts. The first addresses God with "O" and a biblical, messianic title and concludes with a call for Him to come. The phrases of the prayers derive from Scripture. And while you may not be familiar with evening prayer, as recited by priests, religious and a growing number of lay people, you will be familiar with the O Antiphons from the verses of that well-known Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." These prayers may, and should, be used devotionally, one a day, from December 17th to 23rd as way of meditating on the coming of Jesus, just as they have been for nearly 1500 years. Here are the texts of the "Great O's" together with some of the biblical references, as they appear in the Evening Prayer of the Church:

- O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O Come and teach us the way of truth. (*Proverbs 8:12, Isaiah 11:2*)
- O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law: O Come, and save us with your mighty power. (*Ex. 3:14b*)
- O Root(Stock) of Jesse, You stand for a signal for the nations; before You kings shall keep silence, you whom all nations acclaim. O Come and save us and do not delay. (*Isaiah 11:1; Matt. 1: 1- 17; Rom. 15:12*)
- O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel: What you open and no one else can close, What You close and no one may open. O Come to lead the captive from of prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (*Isaiah 22:22*)
- O Dayspring (Rising Sun), you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (*Job 38.12; Isaiah 9:2; Lk 1:78*)
- O King (Ruler) whom all the people desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O Come and save [humanity] who you made from clay. (*Psalms 118:22; Isaiah 28:16*)
- O Emmanuel, you are our King and Judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O Come and save us, Lord our God. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 28:20b*)

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.

TheWay.ie is a new digital platform set up by the Irish Bishops' Conference dedicated to sharing the Good News and the witness of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is intended to help people discover the faith, live the faith and pass on the faith. It is for both seekers and followers.

Visit www.theway.ie.



Children Liturgy Sheets
available at doors of church

Athy Parish website www.parishofathy.ie

Parish Radio 107.9 fm