



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



MASS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7TH DECEMBER 2025

Prayer

God of life abundant, may your
advent call to life and love,
hope and conversion touch us
again and draw us closer to you.
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 Second 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.

SVP Annual Church Collection takes place today during
all Masses. 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 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.*

Monday, Feast of the Immaculate Conception. is a Holy
day of Obligation,

Mass times: St Michaels Church Athy **9.30 am**

Crookstown: 9.30am Moone: 11am

Parish Office will be closed on Monday, reopens Tuesday
at 9.30am

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.

Reminding **Area Distributors** that bundles of **Christmas
timetables & Due envelopes** will be ready from Friday next.

Last Weekend Collections

P. Dev.: €3,042 of which €2,220 annuals & €822 weekly

Common: €1,500 **Share:** €1,130

Thanks to all who contributed

Athy Musical & Dramatic Society

present

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

Sunday, 21st December at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church

Tickets €15. See notice boards

A celebration through music, prose & poetry

READINGS Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms: Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9 **Gospel:** Matthew 3: 1-12

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Freda Hoare, Townspark,

Mary Brennan, Flinter's Close

Anne Moran nee Curran, Ballybourough Lane, Dunbrin

Sat. 6pm Vigil: Birthday remembrance: Teresa Carbery

Anniversaries & Remembrance: Canice Bergin, Art &
Eilish O'Neill, Rita & Matt Hanly, Bridget Doyle, Dec. mem.
of Doyle family, Michael Piert Jr., Michael & Alice Piert,
Dec. mem. of Piert family, Joe & Annie Kehoe, Pat Kehoe,
Anne Browne, Christina Byrne, Bernadette Byrne, Christina
Brennan Byrne, Nancy English, Michael & Winifred Kelly,
Dec. mem. of Kelly family, Michael & Bridget Sullivan, Dec.
mem. of Sullivan family, Special Intention, Kathleen Cusack,
Kathleen 'Kitty' Foley, Andrew & Bridget O'Brien, Noel
Ward, Nancy Rice, Brendan Murphy, Jack & Margaret
Murphy, Mary & Jim O'Mara, John Kilfeather, John Murphy,
Phoebe Murphy, Nonie Heatherley, Joan Browne, Emmet
Corcoran, (20th Anniv), Maureen Brennan, Esther Hickey,
Nora Mary Gallagher,

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse:

Peggy & Tom Phelan, Thomas & Elizabeth Dunne, Matt &
Ellen Kelly

Sunday 10.30am: Anniversaries & Remembrance: Bridget
Doyle, Dec. mem. of Doyle family, Michael Piert Jr. Michael &
Alice Piert, Dec. mem. of Piert family, Reggie & Fintan Lalor,
Dina Walshe, Jimmy McDonnell (20th A), Pat Tierney, Aiden
Crowe, Sean Fitzgerald, Paddy Kelly (2nd A), Christina Byrne,
Bernadette Byrne, Christina Brennan Byrne, Nancy English,
Michael & Winifred Kelly, Dec. mem. of Kelly family, Michael
& Bridget Sullivan, Dec. mem. of Sullivan family, Special
Intention, Kathleen Cusack, Nancy Rice, Andrew & Bridget
O'Brien, Brendan Murphy, Jack & Margaret Murphy, Mary & Jim
O'Mara, John Kilfeather, John Murphy, Phoebe Murphy, Nonie
Heatherley, Joan Browne, Emmet Corcoran, (20th Anniv),
Maureen Brennan, Esther Hickey, John Dalton

Sunday 12 noon: Birthday rem: Tom Heskins

Anniversaries & Remembrance: Bridget Doyle, Dec. mem. of
Doyle family, Michael Piert Jr., Michael & Alice Piert, Dec. mem.
of Piert family, Nancy Rice, Reggie & Fintan Lalor, George
Higginson, Anthony Byrne, Jimmy McDonnell (20th A), Christina
Byrne, Bernadette Byrne, Christina Brennan Byrne, Kathleen
Meany (1st A), Angela & Brendan Doran, Brendan Doran Jr.,
Nancy English, Kathleen Cusack, Andrew & Bridget O'Brien,
Michael & Winifred Kelly, Dec. mem. of Kelly family, Michael &
Bridget Sullivan, Dec. mem. of Sullivan family, Special Intention,
Margaret 'Peg' Moran, Abbey George, Paddy 'Skinner' Foley,
Nora Mary Gallagher

Monday 9.30 am: Mick & Agnes Murphy, Joseph Bastable,
Paddy Kelly (2nd A), George & Patrick Aldridge, Ellen Bridgett,
Margaret 'Peg' Moran, Emmet Corcoran, Johanne Delahunt, Dec
mem of Robinson Family

Tues. 9.30 am: George Aldridge Jr., Kathleen 'Kitty' Foley

Wednes. 9.30 am: Birthday rem: Derek & Maisie Candy.

Anniv. Sadie Moore, Michael Piert, James & Anne Mulhall,
Martin Fox, Margaret Fox, Martin Daly

Thur 9.30am: Fintan Lalor, Martin Fox,

Friday 9.30am: Month's mind: Martin Brennan

Anniv: Bridget Foy, Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill (4th A), Paddy &
Betty Brennan, Edward & Margaret Brennan, Tony, John &
Michael Brennan, Fredesvindo Fabian

PARISH CENTRE CAKE SALE

Sat 13th Dec 2025, 10.30am

Venue: ATHY Parish Centre Mt HAWKINS R14 XY60

CONTACT 085 7265650

If you would like to bake for cake sale it would be appreciated

You can drop your baking in as follows

Parish Office: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Parish Centre: Friday-2pm -3.30pm, 7-8pm,
Saturday- 9am



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**



Churchtown Annual Christmas Goose Club,

Sunday, 7th December, from 2pm in Castlemitchell Hall.

All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & MUSICAL EVENING

St Mary's Church, Barrowhouse

on Saturday, 13th December 7.30pm

All are welcome. Admission free

CATECHETICAL CORNER – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

On December 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. In Irish this feast day is called, *Féile Mhuire gan Smál* – Feast of Mary without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you*" (Lk. 1:28). The phrase "*full of grace*" is a translation of the Greek word '*KECHARITOMENE*' which literally means: "*to have been created in the fullness of grace*". That Greek word appears nowhere else in the Bible and is used only in reference to Mary.

We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "*Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin*". (CCC # 491). The next paragraph reads: *The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love"*

Although Mary was preserved from original sin and indeed remained sinless throughout her life, she was still in need of salvation... "*My spirit rejoices in GOD my saviour...*" (Lk. 1:47). But Mary was saved before her sin, not like us. We are saved after our sin by the merits of the Cross of Christ. Mary was saved from falling into sin in the first place.

Mary revealed to a visionary that her favourite title to addressed by is the Immaculate Conception, just as she told St Bernadette in Lourdes. During this week, and especially on Monday, pray this simple prayer often throughout the day:

"*Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee,*"

PARISH TEAM



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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/primaryschoolssurvey/.

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.

2026 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.

Missio Ireland wish to thank parishioners of Athy Parish for their generosity. €1,585 was received.

YOUTH 2000

Youth 2000 Ireland is having its annual Catholic Christmas retreat in Dominican College, Newbridge, Co Kildare, on the 12th -14th of December for ages 16-35. speakers, inspiring talks & workshops, fantastic music, group activities, good food, Adoration with Reconciliation & Healing service and prayer. free buses, information and to register please visit our website at youth2000.ie or contact us at office@youth2000.ie

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>