



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE LORDS SUPPER 1ST DECEMBER 2024

Prayer

O God, we believe that your mercies are new every morning and that your faithfulness is abundant. Come to our help as we start afresh our path of discipleship in this season of longing.
Amen



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Tom Fox, Convent View
Kathleen Meany nee Nolan, Oaklawn. Funeral arrangements later

Saturday 6pm Anniversaries: Tom Browne, Margaret Kelly (1st A), Olive Harte (6th A), Mairead Byrne (6th A), Anne Spring, Dec. mem of Spring & Hunston families, Patrick Bolger, Anne Carolan, Bob Gannon, Mary O'Shaughnessy (4th A), William Lawler, Mary Lawler, John 'Johnny' Coughlan, Alice Ashe, Rita Delaney, Finbar Purcell, Thomas & Elizabeth Dunne, Matt & Eileen Kelly, Jim Bolger, Mary Perse, Edward & Joe Perse, Dec. mem of Perse family, Annie O'Neill, Angela Eustace, Tom Kelly (1st Anniv)

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Peggy & Tom Phelan

Sunday 10.30am:

Anniversaries: Kevin, Peg & Mark Merlehan, William Lawler, Mary Lawler, Teresa Hickey, Tony Bracken, Thomas & Elizabeth Dunne, Matt & Eileen Kelly, Jim Bolger, Joan Molloy, Dec mem of Conroy & McNamara family, Mary James Flinter, Doreen Flinter Behan, George Flinter, Eileen Flinter Dapice, George & Patrick Aldridge,
Birthday Remembrance: John Dalton

Sunday 12 noon:

Anniversaries: Tom Murphy, Mary O'Shaughnessy (4th A) William Lawler, Mary Lawler, Tony Bracken, George & Patrick Aldridge, Jim Bolger
Birthday Remembrance: Tommy Donnelly

Monday 9.30am: Patrick Aldridge, Ethel Hogan

Tues. 9.30 am: Ann Horgan, Margaret McCann, Cis Webster, Dec. members of Webster & Langton families Michael Mullin, Special Intention

Wednes. 9.30 am: Bridget 'Biddy' Doyle, Dec. members of Doyle family, Mary Mullin

Thur. 9.30 am: 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.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent

If you wish to have your deceased loved ones included on the **Christmas List** for inclusion in Masses during the Christmas, drop their names into the Parish office by Thursday 19th December 1.30pm.

Last weekend Mass collections:

Common: €1,105 **Share** €1,136

Thanks to all who contribute

P. Dev.: €1,065 total last weekend

including **annual donations** amounting to €460

Thanks to all who contributed

ATHY MOONE NARRAGHMORE
& CASTLEDERMOT

Advent Prayer Evening
in Crookstown Church

on Wednesday 4th December @ 7.30 p.m.
A time for Prayer & Reflection as we begin our
Advent Journey in Preparation for the
coming of Jesus this Christmas

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual appeal will take place in all the Parish Churches next weekend 7th and 8th December.

The collection will take place during all Masses or if you wish to choose one of the following

You can also drop your donation into the Parish Office where there is a collection box.
Leave it into our Charity shop Vincents, on William St.
You can also post it to head office by using the blue envelope available in church.

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

READINGS

1st Reading:

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Psalm; Ps. 24:4-5. 8-10.14

2nd Reading:

1 Thessalonians 3.12-4:2

Gospel:

Luke 21:25-28.34-36

Athy Parish website

www.parihofathy.ie

Parish Radio 107.9 fm

Children Liturgy Sheets
available at doors of church





ADVENT & CHRISTMAS STOCK

Christmas cards



& Christmas Mass Bouquets available from

Parish Shop

HOLY HOUR

in Parish Church Tuesday's from 2-3pm

Last Holy Hour before Christmas will be

Tuesday 10th December & resumes Tuesday 7th January

HOLY HOUR

St. Mary's Church Barrowhouse

Tuesday's from 7pm-8pm

CHURCHTOWN

Annual Goose Club Sunday 8th December 2-6p.m.

Castlemitchell Community Hall

ATHY WOMEN'S SHED

Christmas Craft & Gift Sale

Thurs. 5th Dec. 11am-3pm

Everything under €10 Cash Only

Athy Community Arts Centre, Woodstock St. R14RH 70

CATECHETICAL CORNER – "I'M RAGING..."

The days are getting shorter and shorter, the nights are longer and darker. In this part of the world and at this time of the year it can almost feel like the world is closing in on us. And yet all it takes to lift the dark on the darkest of nights is a single light or candle. It doesn't even have to be that strong.

In Advent we, to quote Dylan Thomas, "...rage against the dying of the light." We start our raging by lighting a single candle on the Advent Wreath. Our first candle is associated with Hope.

As we begin the Churches' new year it is appropriate that the first candle is that of Hope, especially this year, for Pope Francis has declared this a Jubilee Year on the theme of Hope. And as our world darkens both physically and metaphorically we need Hope.

So what is a Jubilee? A Jubilee is intended to call us back into a closer relationship with GOD. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,*" (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2).

The characteristics of the Jubilee are, where possible: 1. Making pilgrimage: The pilgrimage can be physical, actually going somewhere; but pilgrimage is characterised by prayer and conversion so it can happen at home. 2. Visiting the Holy Door: The Jubilee Year is officially launched when the Pope opens the Holy Door in the Basilica of St John Lateran. 3. Reconciliation: being reconciled with GOD, with others and with ourselves. 4. Prayer: There are many reasons and ways to pray, but at the root of prayer is always the desire to be open to God's presence and His offer of love. It is the Spirit of the Son that calls the Christian community to prayer and allows for each person to return to the Father. 5. Liturgy: Participating more often and more fully in the Liturgical life of the Church. This may require some effort on our part to learn more about the Liturgical and Sacramental life of the Church. 6. Profession of Faith: "*To say the Creed with faith is to enter into communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst, we believe*" (CCC 197). 7. Indulgence: There is an indulgence associated with the Jubilee. The Jubilee Indulgence is a concrete manifestation of God's mercy... To gain the indulgence we should, if our means and health allow, fulfil the characteristics of the Jubilee.

Advent is a season of Hope on the cusp of a year dedicated to Hope. The Jubilee along with Advent calls us to Rage against the darkness with light and against despair with hope. I'm raging, are you?

ATHY MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

31st Anniversary

While Shepherds Watched

Tuesday 17th December @ 7.30 p.m.

St Michael's Parish Church.

Tickets €10

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.

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 on December 14th/15th**, Gaudete Sunday - Third 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.

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

The Gaelscoil Átha Í Open Night will be Tuesday the 10th of December from 6-7:30pm. Enrolment for the school year 2025-2026 is now open for junior infants starting school. Please see our website <https://www.gaelscoilathai.com/> for further information or come into our office for a hard copy of the enrolment form. Thank you.

PARISH TEAM

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