



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 22ND DECEMBER 2024

Prayer

Prayer God of all loving, bless all our encounters this Christmas. Help us to be both kind and joyful, so that all whom we meet will be the better for it. Inspire us to know when a word of witness will lift the celebration and enable family and friends to get to the heart of it all.
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.

Some Area Distributors have yet to collect their bundle of **Christmas Timetables** and Christmas Dues envelopes which are behind the high Altar after Mass.

Athy Family Mass will take place Christmas Eve at 6pm.

(children are invited to come dressed as angels or shepherds)

Christmas Vigil will take place at 8pm preceded with carols from 7.45pm from parish choir



Christmas Day Masses in Athy Parish
9am Barrowhouse, 10.30am & 12 noon.
(See timetable printed on notice boards)

Last weekend collections:

Common: €1,000

Share: €926

P. Dev.: €2,468 total last weekend including **annual donations** amounting to €1,470 and weekly donations of €998 *Thanks to all who contributed*

Anam Cara - supporting parents after bereavement, are hosting their first **Online Bereavement Information Evening** of 2025 on **Tuesday 7th of January 2025**. This online talk is for bereaved parents only.

Here are the details of this **ONLINE** event

Date: Tuesday 7th of January 2025

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Guest Speaker: Níamh Finucane

Parents can register using the below link:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

CHRISTMAS

Office close for Christmas holidays
Re-opening Tuesday 31st December
9.30-1pm only
Closed Wednes 1st January 2025



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Patrick Fitzpatrick, Castlemitchel

Cecilia Kelly nee Dunne, Avondale Drive

Patrick 'Pat' Perse, Oldcourt

Denis Dunne, Barrowhouse, funeral Mass Monday in St. Mary's Church Barrowhouse, burial in adjoining cemetery.

Saturday 6pm

Month's mind: Michael Kelly

Birthday remembrance: (100th B.R.) of Michael Desmond John Dalton, Christy Brogan Eamon Mulhall (birthday rem. & 6th Anniv.)

Anniversaries: Denis Chanders, Michael & Delia Connolly, Micheál 'Gunner' Connolly, Stephen & Harriett Connolly, Patrick & Mary Roche, Declan Roche, Paddy Quinn, Michael Eustace, Michael Perse, Veronica & Joseph Bradley, Jim & Eileen Hanratty, Frank Gregory (1st A), Jimmy Fitzpatrick (1st A), Michael & Sadie Eustace, Martin Phillips (1st A), Pat Flood, Christina May, Liam Reid, Denis Byrne, Kathleen Archbold, Christina & Bernard Lehane, Frank & Olive Lehane, Marjorie & Willie Smith, Martin & Margaret Fox, Frank & Nora Flahive, Michael Walsh (4th A), Josie Hunt, Sp. Intention, Brendan Owens (2nd A), Bridget & Andrew O'Brien, Eamon Mulhall (6th A), Ann & Cathal Mulhall, Peter Nolan, Kathleen Lynch, Jane McLoughlin, Jack & Kitty Kelly, Geraldine Kelly, Patrick & Roseanne Keegan, Rose Heavy, Sheila Melia, James & Maura Anthony, Don Dunlea

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: James & Angela Davis, Theo & Adam Davis, Bridie Davis, Joan & Bobby Smithers, P.J. Davis, Mary Davis

Sunday 10.30am: Anniversaries: Michael McHugh, Molly Connell, Michael, Delia Connolly, Micheál 'Gunner' Connolly, Stephen & Harriett Connolly, Patrick & Mary Roche, Declan Roche, Anne Farrell, Maura Farrell, Paddy Quinn, Michael Eustace, Tony Kirwan, Mary & Anthony Kirwan, Tommy Kirwan, Liam Reid, Ciaran Condron, Sr. Carmel Condron, Denis Byrne, Theresa Kinsella (2nd A), Brigid & Anthony Talbot, Dec. mem. of Reid & Foley families, Ellen Fingleton, Elizabeth Lawlor, Dec. mem. of Lawlor & Murphy fam. Ellen Bridgett, Brendan Owens (2nd A), Cermelita Canares, Paddy Doogue

Sunday 12 noon: Anniversaries: Michael McHugh, Molly Connell, Michael & Delia Connolly, Michael 'Gunner' Foley, Stephen & Harriett Connolly, Patrick & Mary Roche, Declan Roche, Paddy Quinn, Michael Eustace, Margo Heskin (2nd A), Liam Owens, Maura McCauley, Tony Kirwan, Mary & Anthony Kirwan, Tommy Kirwan, Liam Reid, Joe & Kathleen Gibbons, Michael Ryan, Brendan Owens (2nd A), Philomena Moynihan, Dec. mem. of Moynihan & Dooley fam. Dec. mem. of Dowling family, Peter Fleming.

Monday 9.30am: Birthday rem.: Christy Brogan

Dec. mem. of Bracken family, Ann Rigney, Jack & Kitty Kelly, Geraldine Kelly, Patrick & Roseanne Keegan, Rose Heavy, Sheila Melia, John Shaughnessy

Tues. 9.30 am: Christmas Eve

Wednes. 9.30 am: Christmas Day

Thur. 9.30 am: Sp Intention, Fidelma Kane, Anthony Kelly,

Friday 9.30am: Eddie Roycroft, Marie O'Meara, Adrian Whelan, Dawn O'Brien, Bart & Rose Brown.

HOLY HOUR

in Parish Church Tuesday's will be resumes Tuesday 7th January, 2-3pm

HOLY HOUR

St. Mary's Church Barrowhouse
Tuesday's from 7pm-8pm

MISSIO IRELAND

MISSIO IRELAND wish to thank all those who donated towards the Mission Sunday collection.
Total raised
in Athy Parish was
€1,480.

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.

CATECHETICAL CORNER -- A HALLMARK CHRISTMAS

It is that time of year again. As we come to the final days of Advent, and Christmas is almost upon us, for many of us there is a tremendous pressure, either from ourselves, our families or just from society, the culture in which we live, to have, what has been called, a 'Hallmark Christmas'. A Hallmark Christmas is the kind of Christmas that we see in those Christmas movies on the Hallmark Channel or the Christmas Channel that none of us will admit to watching, where there is never a cross word, nobody is stressed, the cooking all turns out perfect, everybody gets the exact perfect gift, beautifully wrapped of course, where love, peace and harmony reign supreme and all our dreams come true. Oh, wouldn't that be lovely?

The reality, however, is often far removed from this, idyllic Hallmark scene. That is why it might be worthwhile taking some time to consider just what it's all about, and just what the point of it all is. Yes, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, but we are also celebrating family and being together. To make it as pleasant as possible here is some good advice from St Paul via Sharon Jaynes:

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of [mince pies], preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of [Christmas] parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Taken from: "1 Corinthians 13 – A Christmas Version by Sharon Jaynes"

Have a Happy and a Hallmark Christmas.



"A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM JESUS"

When you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right here where you are.
You may not be aware of me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
To close your eyes and say a prayer,
I'm waiting here for you.
You're the one I want to be with.
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
Where I'm whispering your name.



Children Liturgy Sheets available at
doors of church

Enrolment in Scoil Phadraig Naofa - September 2025

Enrolments will take place for pupils wishing to commence
in either Junior Infant or ASD Classes for September 2025
from

Friday 10th January, 2025 – Friday 31st January, 2025.

READINGS

First Zephaniah 3:14 -18;

Psalms: Isaiah 12:2-4

Second: Philippians 4:4 -7;

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

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

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PARISH TEAM

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