



THE PARISH
OF ATHY

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 8TH DECEMBER 2024

Prayer

God, Holy One, everlasting and full of mercy, in you we place all our trust. In times of distress, open our heart to true life and joy in believing that we have new courage and be sources of encouragement to all we meet.
Amen.



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased:

*Kathleen Meany nee Nolan, Oaklawn.
Emmet Keating, Seattle, USA*

Saturday 6pm

Birthday remembrance; Mary 'Tuds' Maguire nee Farrell, Christy Kelly, Jim Prendergast, Theresa Carbery

Anniversaries:

Eilish & Arthur O'Neill, Canice Bergin, Bridget 'Biddy' Doyle, Dec. mem. of Doyle family, David & Mikey Harris, Fintan Lalor, Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill (3rd A), Michael Desmond, Ann Brown, Maureen Brennan, Gay Coffey, John & Ellen Kirwan, John Flanagan, Chris Kirwan, Natasha Glancy, Paddy Kelly (1st A), Kathleen 'Kitty' Flood, Dec. members of Foley family, Mary Perse, Dec. members of Perse family, Elizabeth & Barney Doyle, Sara & John Davis, Nellie O'Neill, Nancy Rice, Noel Ward, Brendan Murphy, Jack & Margaret Murphy, Mary & Jim O'Mara, Nonie Heatherley, John Murphy, John Kilfeather Kathleen Cusack, Elizabeth O'Keeffe (18th A), Kevin O'Keeffe, Nancy English, Christina Byrne, Bernadette Byrne, Christina Brennan Byrne, John Kavanagh, Eileen O'Neill, Ted O'Neill

Sunday 9am Barrowhouse: Philip Maher (1st A), Theresa Phelan, Dec. members of Phelan family, Kevin O'Keeffe, Elizabeth O'Keeffe (18th A), Mary 'Ciss' Brennan

Sunday 10.30am:

Birthday Remembrance: Mary 'Tuds' Maguire nee Farrell

Anniversaries: Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill, Ann Brown, Richard Norris, Joseph Bastable, Nellie O'Neill, Nancy Rice, Margaret 'Peg' Moran, Dina Walsh (32nd A), Moly, Ned & Mattie Kirwan, Brendan Murphy, Jack & Margaret Murphy, Mary & Jim O'Mara, Nonie Heatherley, John Murphy, John Kilfeather, Kathleen Cusack, Kevin O'Keeffe, Elizabeth O'Keeffe (18th A), John Kavanagh, Patrick Tierney, Sean Fitzgerald, Aidan Crowe, Eileen O'Neill, Ted O'Neill Zolten Zinn Collis, Edith Zinn Collis

Sunday 12 noon: Birthday Rem. Mary 'Tuds' Maguire nee Farrell, Tom Heskins

Anniversaries: Mick & Agnes Murphy, Joseph 'Joe' O'Neill, George Higginson, Ann Brown, John Kavanagh, Paddy Kelly (1st A) Angela Doran (A) Brendan Doran Snr. Brendan Doran Jr., Joseph Bastable, Nancy Rice, Margaret 'Peg' Moran, Kathleen Cusack, Anthony Byrne, Kevin O'Keeffe, Elizabeth O'Keeffe (18th A), William Bridgid Connell, Eileen O'Neill, Ted O'Neill

Monday 9.30am: George Aldridge Jr., Eilish & Arthur O'Neill, Canice Bergin

Tues. 9.30 am: Birthday Rem. Maisie Candy Michael Piert Jr (20th A), Michael & Alice Piert, James & Anne Mulhall, Martin Daly (31st A), Nellie O'Neill (A), Martin & Margaret Fox

Wednes. 9.30 am: Fintan Lalor, Mikey & David Harris, Julia Martin

Thur. 9.30 am: Jack Brogan

Friday 9.30am: Bridget Foy, Betty Wallace (2ndA) Paddy & Betty Brennan, Edward & Margaret Brennan, Michael Brennan, Teresa & Jim Mannion, Eamonn Mannion, Thomas Stynes, Thanksgiving,

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 Second 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. List will be displayed in the church over Christmas.

Last weekend collections:

Common: €1,125 **Share** €1,030

P. Dev.: €2,601 total last weekend including **annual donations** amounting to €1,757 and weekly donations of €844. *Thanks to all who contributed*

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual appeal will take place in all the Parish Churches this weekend

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS STOCK

Christmas cards

& Christmas Mass Bouquets, children's bibles

available from Parish Shop



ATHY MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

31st Anniversary

While Shepherds Watched

Tuesday 17th December @ 7.30 p.m.

St Michael's Parish Church.

Tickets €10

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

CATECHETICAL CORNER – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

On December 8th we usually celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. As it falls on Sunday this year it is not celebrated liturgically and is moved to Monday, December 9th. But what is the Immaculate Conception?

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). And in the next paragraph we read: *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"*

It is also worth noting, that 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. In other words, there are two ways to save someone who falls into the sea; one is to pull them out the other is to stop them from falling in in the first place. The Immaculate Conception is the latter. Mary was saved from falling into sin in the first place.

To Do: 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 pray this simple prayer often throughout the day: "Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee,"

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.

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.

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.

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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Children Liturgy Sheets available at doors of church