

**22ND DECEMBER 2024** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, ATHENRY** **CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NEWCASTLE**  
**Parish Office: (091) 844076 Email: [info@athenryparish.ie](mailto:info@athenryparish.ie)**  
**Office Eircode: H65 H224**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10:30am — 1:30pm; Friday: 10:30am — 4:30pm**  
**Priests:** Fr. Charlie McDonnell P.P. **Mobile: 086-8193884 Email: [frchaz@me.com](mailto:frchaz@me.com)**  
Fr. Benny McHale C.C. **Mobile: 087-2387336**  
**Deacon:** Rev. Julian Drapiewski **Mobile: 086-8185188**  
**Pastoral and Counselling:** Mike Dunne **Mobile: 0879920507. Email: [counsellingmike@gmail.com](mailto:counsellingmike@gmail.com)**  
**Parish Secretary:** Bríd Higgins **Office: 091 844076. Email: [info@athenryparish.ie](mailto:info@athenryparish.ie)**  
**Newcastle bookings:** Mary Gannon **Mobile: 086-4060187**  
**Safeguarding Rep:** Eithna Moran 091-844076  
**Email: [info@athenryparish.ie](mailto:info@athenryparish.ie) Website: [www.athenryparish.ie](http://www.athenryparish.ie) Facebook: St. Marys Parish Athenry**  
**Parish Webcam: [www.athenryparish.ie](http://www.athenryparish.ie) Parish FM: 106.5**  
**Bank: AIB, Athenry; Account Name: St. Mary's Parish Athenry IBAN:IE59 AIBK 9370 1013 1670 45; BIC:AIBKIE2D**  
**PRIEST ON DUTY THIS WEEK: Fr. Benny MC Hale. Mobile: 087-2387336**



**✠ MASS TIMES ✠**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ATHENRY**  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST VIGIL MASS AT 6.30PM**  
Tommy Loughnane & deceased staff members of Athenry Mart  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND MASS AT 11:00AM**  
Intention  
*{SEE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN THE FINAL COLUMN}*  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 28TH VIGIL MASS AT 6.30PM**  
Intention  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH MASS AT 11:00AM**  
Teresa Archer, New Line  
**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWCASTLE**  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND MASS AT 10:00AM**  
Jack Madden and deceased of the Madden & Gannon families  
*{SEE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN THE FINAL COLUMN}*  
**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 26TH**  
**MASS 10:00AM**  
James & Masie, Corbett, Fr. Josie & Mick Corbett  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH MASS AT 10:00AM**  
Bernadette Monahan, Knockbrack

**✠ RECENTLY DECEASED ✠**  
Michael Cannon, Ballydavid South  
Mary King, Tuam, sister of Helen Ryan, Green Acre  
Con Brennan, Monaghan, brother of Dr Vivian Brennan, Raheen  
Breda Fitzpatrick, daughter-in-law of Ann Fitzpatrick, New Line

**BASKET COLLECTION: (14th & 15th DEC.) €3,615**

**PARISH ENVELOPES 2025**  
The annual Parish Envelopes for the coming year 2025, are now available in the Pastoral Centre and are available for the **area distributors** to collect after Mass. If any parishioner is not in receipt of envelopes and would like to receive them, please contact the parish office on 091-844076. **As always we are very grateful to those who distribute these envelopes.**

**CHRISTMAS CALLS (Monday 23rd December)**  
Both Fr. Charlie and Fr. Benny will do their Christmas Calls on Monday 23rd December at the usual times.

**PARISH OFFICE — CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**  
The Parish Office will **close** until **Thursday January 2nd**. There will be a priest on duty at all times throughout the Christmas. They can be contacted through the office phone or their personal mobiles. (See numbers above).

**READINGS: 28TH & 29TH DECEMBER**  
**1st READ:** Sam. 1:20-22, 24-28. **PSALM:** 83: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10.  
**2nd READ:** 1 JOHN. 3:1-2, 21-24. **GOSPEL:** Lk. 2:41-52.

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**MON. 23RD, TUES 24TH, THURS. 26TH — SAT. 28TH DEC.**  
✠ Bina, Thomas & John Kindregan, Ballydavid  
✠ Seán, Michael & Maura O'Malley & the deceased of the O'Malley & Kenny families  
✠ John McCarthy, Ballintubber  
✠ Christy & Julia Monaghan, Kingsland  
✠ Paul Coffey, Athenry & Ahascragh  
✠ Tess Rohan, Dunclarin Court  
✠ Paddy Cassidy, Mountain South  
✠ Eddie Treacy, Cussane & Boston  
✠ Joshua Sullivan, Moneymore  
✠ Patrick & Bridget Treacy, Cussane  
✠ Michael & Kate Fahy, Lydican  
✠ Kitty, Eamon & Joe Cahill, Lydican  
✠ Ted Naughton, Lydican  
✠ Alice & Dan Delaney, Clamper Park  
✠ Kathleen Delaney, Clamper Park  
✠ Joe Callanan, Rockfield  
✠ Patrick, Kathleen & Joe Molloy  
✠ Thomas & Margaret Bane & their son John, Church St.  
✠ Bob Gilligan and his parents, Craughwell  
✠ Gerry Devlin, Navan  
✠ Bridie Forde, her husband Michael Forde & her brother-in-law Sonny Barrett

**NATIVITY FILM**  
On **Monday December 23rd at 7:30pm**, a special showing of a film on the **NATIVITY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS** will take place in the **Pastoral Centre**. All are welcome.

**MARY'S MEALS**  
Mary's Meals is a simple solution to world hunger, feeding hungry children in their place of education in seventeen of the world's poorest countries. €22 will feed a child for an entire school year. To learn more please go to [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) or contact Fr. Benny 087-2387336 re donating.

**PRAYER — A GIFT AT CHRISTMAS**  
We will receive many gifts this Christmas, some we will unwrap with great enthusiasm & then cast aside, others we may open & treasure throughout the year. Prayer is a gift we often take for granted, something we don't always value fully until we are in a crisis. For prayer to be of deep value to us, it is something we should practice regularly, like we do various skills in our lives. Might we suggest this Christmas Day that we begin with Grace before & after meals. Christmas Day, when everyone is round the table, is an opportune time to introduce prayer into the home, if it's not common place already. If we give ourselves & our families any gift this Christmas, wouldn't it wonderful if it were the gift of prayer, to help, strengthen & sustain us through whatever 2025 may bring us.

**PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**  
The Christmas Collection for the priests of the parish will be taken up at **all Masses on Christmas Day**. This is one of the four collections in the year that goes towards the salaries of the priests. We are deeply grateful for the way in which you so generously support us throughout the year. God bless you all. You can also transfer your contribution electronically through:  
**IBAN: IE33 AIBK 9370 1000 1550 60 BIC: AIBKIE2D**

**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025 — FROM ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS**  
Archbishop Francis will open the Jubilee Year of Hope at the annual Mass for Peace in Tuam Cathedral on Wednesday 1st January 2025, at noon.

In his letter "Hope does not Disappoint", introducing the Jubilee of Hope, Pope Francis writes "The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation". One of the features of the Jubilee of Year of Hope is an emphasis on popular piety, such as places of pilgrimage and wayside shrines, both strongly associated with this diocese. In addition, there are local shrines, patterns, holy wells, Knock, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick and of course our churches, prayers and practices. May we experience the joy of being 'pilgrims of hope' during the coming year.

**BEANNACHTAÍ NA NOLLAIG**  
We wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole Parish Team, to wish our parishioners at home and abroad a very happy, holy & peaceful Christmas. Sincere thanks to the hundreds of volunteers involved in Parish Ministry throughout the year. We will be keeping you in our Masses & prayers in a special way during this Holy Season. With every prayerful blessing — Fr. Charlie & Fr. Benny.

**♪♪ HYMNS AT 11:00AM MASS ATHENRY ♪♪**  
**Entrance:**  
1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set your people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Christ in whom our rest shall be.  
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Born salvation to impart;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.  
3. Born your people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now your gracious kingdom bring.  
**Offertory: Tollite portas** (C. Dalitz)  
*Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lifted up,  
O eternal gates: and the King of Glory shall enter in.*  
**Sanctus / Agnus Dei: Mass XVII**  
**Communion: Rorate Caeli** (C. Tye)  
*Drop dew, ye heavens, from above,  
And let the clouds rain upon the righteous.  
Let the earth be opened and send forth a Saviour.*  
**Recessional:**  
Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes,  
Et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo:  
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem.  
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore  
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.  
*Kind mother of the Redeemer who remain the open gate of heaven  
And the star of the sea: help your falling people who want to rise.  
You who bore your holy Parent, while nature marvelled:  
A Virgin before and after, receiving that 'Ave' from Gabriel's  
mouth, Have mercy on us sinners.*

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024**  
**SAINT MARY'S PARISH ATHENRY**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ATHENRY**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH**  
6:30pm Family Mass  
9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass  
**(St. Mary's Church Choir will sing carols from 8:30pm)**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25TH**  
9:00am Mass at Dawn  
11:00am Christmas Day Mass



**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWCASTLE**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH**  
6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass  
**CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25TH**  
10:00am Christmas Day Mass

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, ATHENRY**  
Saturday December 21st 9:00am — 9:50am.  
Monday December 23rd 6:00pm — 8:00pm  
Wednesday December 24th 10:30am—11:30am  
**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NEWCASTLE**  
Sunday December 22nd 10:45 — 11:30am

**2025 ATHENRY PARISH CALENDAR**  
The 2025 parish Calendar will be available over the Christmas and New Year period and we hope will act as a useful resource for parishioners in the year ahead. The Calendar contains all the important liturgical events for the coming year and the various events such as Cemetery Masses and the Exam Prayer Service. While this is by no means an exhaustive list of what will be happening during the year, we hope that it will aid families in knowing what's happening and spreading the word to family who are away from Athenry who may wish to come home for various events.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE**  
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God  
January 1st 2025  
**VIGIL FOR PEACE**  
Church of the Assumption Athenry  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

**SYCAMORE PROGRAMME — TUAM**  
Tuam parish will be running the popular Sycamore programme next month. (Jan 23rd @7pm — one hour weekly sessions, 7 in total). This programme seeks to explore the deeper questions of life, truth, faith, and God. It is primarily aimed at those who are lapsed Catholics or those who are non-Christian and wish to know more. Further details from the Tuam parish office 093 24250 or to register, email [frmarkquinn@tuamparish.com](mailto:frmarkquinn@tuamparish.com).