

21ST DECEMBER 2025

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, ATHENRY

Parish Office: (091) 844076 Email: info@athenryparish.ie

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

Fr. Benny McHale C.C. Mobile: 087-2387336

Deacon: Rev. Julian Drapiewski Mobile: 086-8185188

Pastoral & Counselling: Mike Dunne Mobile: 0879920507 Email: counsellingmike@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Bríd Higgins Office: 091 844076 Email: info@athenryparish.ie

Newcastle Bookings: Mary Gannon Mobile: 086-4060187

Safeguarding Rep: Eithna Moran Office: 091-844076

Email: info@athenryparish.ie Website: www.athenryparish.ie Facebook: St. Mary's Parish Athenry

Parish Webcam: www.athenryparish.ie Parish FM: 106.5

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NEWCASTLE

Office Eircode: H65 H224

Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10:30am — 1:30pm; Friday: 10:30am — 4:30pm

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PRIEST ON DUTY THIS WEEK:

Fr. Benny McHale C.C.

Mobile: 087-2387336

Bank Details for Weekly Church Offerings: (Please include your name and/or envelope number if you have one)

Bank: AIB, Athenry; Account Name: St. Mary's Parish Athenry IBAN:IE59 AIBK 9370 1013 1670 45; BIC:AIBKIE2D

✠ MASS TIMES ✠

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ATHENRY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH — VIGIL MASS AT 6.30PM

John Anthony Kelly, Cussane, (1st Anniversary)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST — MASS AT 11:00AM

Pro Populo

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH — VIGIL MASS AT 6.30PM

Joe Connell, Castlelambert (1st Anniversary)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH — MASS AT 11:00AM

Liam Doherty, Caheroyan (Month's Mind)

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWCASTLE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST — MASS AT 10:00AM

Tom & Margaret Kelly & deceased of the Kelly family, Tiaquin

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH — MASS AT 10:00AM

James & Maisie Corbett, Fr. Josie & Mick Corbett

Jack & Jimmy Curran

BASKET COLLECTION 6TH, 7TH & 8TH DECEMBER

ATHENRY & NEWCASTLE €3,660

RECENTLY DECEASED

Peggy Farrell, Rockfield Cross

CHRISTMAS CALLS

FR. CHARLIE Monday 22nd December

FR. BENNY Wednesday 24th December

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ATHENRY

Saturday December 20th 9:00am — 9:50am.

Monday December 22nd 6:00pm — 8:00pm

Wednesday December 24th 10:30am—11:30am

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWCASTLE

Sunday December 22nd 10:45 — 11:30am

READINGS: 27TH & 28TH DECEMBER

(THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH)

1st READING: Eccles (Sir) 3:2-6 PSALM: 127:1-5

2nd READING: 1. COL 3:12-21 GOSPEL: Mt 2:13-15

PARISH OFFICE — CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office will **close on Tues. 23rd December and will open again on Fri. 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). If you would like to include a Mass intention for the week beginning Monday, 29th December, and have not already done so, please contact the office by Monday, 22nd. The newsletter will be printed on Tuesday 23rd.

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS 10:00AM.

22ND — 24TH AND 26TH — 27TH DECEMBER

✠ John A. Kelly, Cussane

✠ Seán, Michael & Maura O'Malley

✠ Peter Houlihan, Northgate St.

✠ Tommy Finn, Moorpark

✠ Deceased of the Devaney family, Abbeyknockmoy

✠ Deceased of the Burke family, Cloonkeen

✠ Paul Coffey, Ahascragh Athenry

✠ Nena & Thomas Murren & their son Thomas Patrick & the deceased of the Murren & McGagh families

✠ John McCarthy, Ballintubber

✠ Louis Garvey, Headford

✠ Delia Feeney & her husband Martin, Mountain North

✠ Mary McBride, Oranmore

✠ Paddy Cassidy, Mountain South

✠ Alice & Dan Delaney & Kathleen Delaney, Clampar Park

✠ Joe Callinan, Rockfield

✠ Tommy & Kathleen McNamara & their son Tom, Barrack St.

♪ HYMNS FOR 11:00AM SUNDAY MASS ♪

Entrance: God of Mercy and Compassion

Offertory: Christ Circle Around Us

Communion: Creator Alme Siderum

Recessional: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel

that mourns in lonely exile here

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,

who ordered all things mightily

to us the path of knowledge show

and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to you, O Israel

ATHENRY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We wish to thank everyone who supported & participated in our parish's weekly Bible Study this year. We look forward to resuming in January. Consider joining, as a New Year's resolution! All are welcome — no prior knowledge of Scripture is needed.

ATHENRY CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUET CARDS.

Available in the Parish Office.

Signed by

Fr. Charlie / Fr. Benny

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ATHENRY

CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24TH

6:30pm Family Mass

9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWCASTLE

CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24TH

6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH

9:00am Mass at Dawn

11:00am Christmas Day Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH

10:00am Christmas Day Mass

NATIVITY FILM

NOTE CHANGE OF TIME TO EARLIER TIME OF 7:30PM

On Monday December 22nd at 7:30pm, there will be a special showing of a film on the Nativity of the Birth of Jesus. It will be shown in the Pastoral Centre. All are welcome.

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. Prayer cards are available from the parish this year. 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 2026 may bring us.

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer cards will be available on Christmas Day. We invite you to take them home with you, keeping Christ and the Holy Family at the heart of Christmas. They contain the Grace before and after meals, which we are encouraging families to use for Christmas dinner and any time they sit together.

2026 ATHENRY PARISH CALENDAR

The 2026 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.

AREA DISTRIBUTORS OF PARISH ENVELOPES 2026

There are still some 2026 parish envelope area distributor boxes to be collected in the Pastoral Centre. Please do so before the end of the year.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DISTRIBUTE ENVELOPES.

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

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE 2026

Fr. Benny will lead a 7-day pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 7th—14th October flying from Knock to Mostar. Full religious programme operated by Marian Pilgrimages and their wonderful guides. Very limited places available. Further enquires to Martina Farragher 086 8641720

MARY'S MEALS THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported our Bake Sale/ Craft Fair in aid of Mary's Meals last weekend, €4,234.92 was raised which will feed 192 children for a whole school year in some of the world's poorest countries, giving children hope of a better future, school+food=hope, see marysmeals.ie. Thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust, this amount will be matched and twice the number of children will be fed.

NOTICE FROM ATHENRY St. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

This is our primary source of funding for the year so again thanks for your support. You may contribute as follows:

Method 1: Contribute to the church gate collection at mass on the 6th & 7th December in Athenry or Newcastle.

Method 2: Lodge a contribution to Athenry SVP's account in AIB Athenry: Acc. No: 11722064. Sort Code: 93-70-10

Method 3: Transfer your contribution electronically through: IBAN: IE79AIBK93701011722064 BIC: AIBKIE2D

For lodgements & transfers, please include **ONLY your NAME & EIRCODE** in the transaction. (Extra text often doesn't appear in the bank statement & we won't know donor name). If you wish to contribute €250 or over, & would like to participate in the CHY3 scheme, please be sure & provide us with your Name & Eircode as instructed above. We will forward necessary documentation. Thanks for your support.

A GENERAL NOTE RE CHY3 FORMS

If you donate €250 or more to multiple charities in a year, you can complete a separate CHY3 form for each. This lets each charity claim tax back from Revenue, up to your total tax paid.

ATHENRY FOOTBALL CLUB FUNDRAISER

Support Aoife & Emma, 2 young parishioners facing serious health challenges. All funds raised go directly to their families to help with treatment, rehabilitation & recovery. Donate via:

(1) iDonate: www.idonate.ie/crowdfunder/AoifeEmma; or

(2) Athenry Credit Union: Account #63966.

(3) Info: Anne: 0857122077 / Athenry FC website & socials.