

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday February 4th 2018

MASS INTENTIONS for the week ahead:

Sat Vigil: Chris Gargan, and his parents Philip & Anne.

Wed 9.30am: Geraldine Arthur

Sat 10am: Phyllis & Ollie Bird

Sat Vigil: Bett Tracey, Sean Byrne.

Sun 9am: Micheal O'Connor

Sun 11.30am: Frank Garrahy, Brendan Doyle, Danny & Dolores O'Sullivan & Dec'd members of the Cassidy family.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Mon 8am, Tues & Thurs 7.30pm, Wed & Fri 9.30am Sat 10am.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD for next weekends' Masses are: Vigil (Feb 10th) Ita Mc Guigan 11.30am (Feb 11th) Nancy Dardis

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST for next weekends' Masses are: Vigil (Feb 10th) Mairead Farrell, Enda Kelly & Susan Kenny 11.30am (Feb 11th) Joseph McGovern, Dawn Finnegan, Anthony Leavy & Finula Garrahy

COLLECTIONS: Athboy €855, Rathmore €170, Rathcairn €160. Thank you for your support.

ADORATION OF BLESSED

SACRAMENT: commencing after morning Mass on Friday and continuing throughout the day until late.

FEASTDAYS in the week ahead:

Mon 5th Feb – St Agatha

Tues 6th Feb – Ss Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

Wed 7th Feb – St Mel

Thurs 8th – St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita, Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking

Sat 10th Feb – St Scholastica

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for Martina Yeoman, England. (Patricia Byrne's sister) and Ross Hanlon, Turry Meadows.

BAPTISMAL MEETING: The next baptismal meeting for parents who wish to have their babies' baptised takes place on Monday February 5th 2018 at 8pm in the Parochial House. Please enrol in advance to the Parochial House.

CANDLEMAS OFFERINGS: Next Sunday is an Offering Day for the support of the priests of our parish.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Mother Teresa said, "Adoration is the best time you will spend on Earth." All welcome to a weekly half hour of Eucharistic Adoration, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, for the protection and greater appreciation of the sanctity of all human life. Rathcairn Church, every Wednesday in February & March, 7.30 to 8pm.

BINGO in aid of Church funds takes place next Sunday Feb 11th at 3pm in the Darnley Lodge Hotel. All welcome.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES "Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!" 6-week parish conversation on the *Joy of Love* for the Tuesdays nights in Lent. Anyone interested in participating is invited to a meeting on Wednesday 7th Feb at 7.30pm in the Adoration Room, St James' Church. It is the official programme to prepare for the WMOF.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday February 14th. Masses at 8am, 9.30am & 7.30pm. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS: Please remember in your prayers all the children who are preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Penance at this time together with their parents, godparents, families, and teachers. Confirmation classes are currently completing projects on the Bible, Baptism, Advent and the Eucharist. Confirmation takes place at the end of the month on Friday February 23rd and First Penance on the 19th, 20th & 22nd February.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday 10th March Dublin Rally to save the 8th.

THE MONTHLY PADRE PIO MASS takes place on Wednesday 7th February at 8pm in St. Mary's Church, Navan. Blessing with St. Pio's glove after Mass. Everyone welcome.

27th DIVINE MERCY NATIONAL CONFERENCE RDS Dublin: A bus will travel from Athboy/Trim on Saturday 17th February. To reserve a seat please contact Rita 085 7284600.

O'GROWNEY '19: a cultural and heritage project based on the commemoration of Fr. Eugene O'Growney is being planned for 2019. If you are interested in getting involved with this year-long celebration of our cultural heritage, there will be a meeting in the Darnley Lodge Hotel, Athboy on Tuesday 6th February at 7.30pm.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP: Club meeting to take place on Wed 7th Feb 2.45pm-5pm. Kurling and Boccia on Thurs 8th 2.30pm-5pm in St. James' Hall. New members welcome.

ATHBOY CONVENT COMMUNITY CENTRE: "Romantic Ramble" Sunday 11th February on Coillte marked Loop Walk, Girley. Registration 12 noon at Drewstown House (C15 ND96) €5 per person/€10 per family.

ATHBOY ICA will meet on Monday 5th February at 8pm in St. James' Hall, the Kitchen. Competition: "An Unusual Biscuit Tin"

FREE 5 WEEK BASIC LAPTOP iPhone, Smartphone or tablet classes available in all areas – Meath Partnership. Please phone Angela for more details on 046 9280790.

St. Josephine Bakhita 1868-1947, a native of the Darfur region of Sudan, was kidnapped by Arab slave traders in Feb 1877 and for 12 years of her life was bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. During this period, she suffered horrific physical abuse. She was brought as a slave to Italy where she was declared free, became a Christian, and entered the convent of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice. Here she was a cook and a doorkeeper for over 42 years. Known for her gentle voice and smile she was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Her feastday, Feb 8th, is designated International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Each year over 2.5million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. Through the Day of Prayer, we reflect on the experience of those who have suffered but also we are called to reach out to victims and survivors.

"If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today"

St. Josephine Bakhita