

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### ATHBOY PARISH

Parochial House

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#### MASSES TIMES this week:

**Sunday:** Vigil 6.15pm Athboy (Sat)  
9am Rathmore  
10.15am Rathcairn  
11.30am Athboy

**Monday** 8am

**Tuesday** 7.30pm

**Wed, Thursday & Friday** 9.30am

**Saturday** 10am

#### MASS INTENTIONS this week:

##### Saturday Vigil

**6.15pm:** Kathleen McDonagh  
Peggy Fulham  
Elliot Grace

##### Sunday

**10.15am:** Marcos O'Curraoin,  
Bríd Chatháin

**11.30am:** John & Josephine Ryder  
Angela Haran  
Tommy O'Reilly

John & Jim O'Donnell, dec'd family

**Fri 9.30am:** Lily O'Brien

##### Christmas Eve Vigil

**9pm:** Billy & May Bryan

Jim, Lena, Mary & Mona Foy

**BAPTISMS:** may be booked by  
contacting the Parish Office.

#### Offertory Collections

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Athboy** €785

**Rathmore** €185 Thank

**Rathcairn** €180 You!

**Sacrament of Penance:** to prepare for Christmas, the Sacrament of Penance will be available after Vigil and 11.30 Mass this weekend, 17 & 18<sup>th</sup> December and after 7.30pm Mass on Tuesday and after 10am Mass on Christmas Eve.

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Eve  
Vigil in Athboy Mass 6.15pm & 9pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Day

Rathmore 9am  
Rathcairn 10.15am  
Athboy 11.30am



**Super Christmas Bingo and Raffle:** in aid of Athboy Church funds, today 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in the Darnley Hotel. 25 Prizes & lots of Spot Prizes, every Panel €100. Thank you to all who support and organise Bingo and sell raffle tickets.



**Christmas Triduum of Masses:** will be celebrated on 26, 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> December. Signed cards available from the Parochial House or sacristy after Masses.

**Christmas Offerings:** Christmas is the principal offering day for the support of the priest, thank you for your generous support.

**Irish Catholic:** available weekly in Athboy Church, €2.50

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** thank everyone who supported last weekend's collection. If you need the help of the Society, call the free phone number 1 800 677777, all calls and the work of the Society is confidential.

#### A thought from Pope Francis for Christmas 2022

*'It is nice to celebrate Christmas and have parties but let's lower the level of Christmas spending a bit. ... Let's have a more humble Christmas, with more humble gifts. Let's send what we save to the Ukrainian people, who need it.'*

*Christmas is the season of hope. It is a light in the darkness of winter, symbolised in the glow of the candle. The Celts honoured the winter solstice on 21<sup>st</sup> December, the darkest and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, as an awesome time and a powerful symbol of light penetrating darkness.*

*Christmas, the birth of Jesus, was set to synchronize with the December solstice when earth was in its darkest moment and so, Jesus, the Light of the World, entered our world at this point bringing hope. Isaiah spoke about: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone."*

**Sr Rebecca Conlon, Columban Sisters**

