

## ATHBOY PARISH

Parochial House

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**Parish Office hours:** reopens

Friday 9am-1pm & 2-4pm.

**MASSES TIMES this week:**

**Sunday:** 9am Rathmore

10.15am Rathcairn

11.30am Athboy

**Monday & Wednesday** 10am

**Tues** 7.30pm

**New Year's Day Thursday** 11am

**Friday** 9.30am

**Saturday** 10am, **Vigil** 6.15pm

**MASS INTENTIONS this week:**

**Saturday Vigil 6.15pm:**

Tommy & Eileen Maguire,

Rita O'Dwyer & Naoise McManus

**Sunday**

**10.15am:** Owen Ó Máirtín

**11.30am** Tony & Phyllis O'Connor

Rosaleen & Andrew Cullen, dec family

**Mon 10:** Micil O'Loughlin

**Tue 7.30:** Margaret, Bernard & Mary  
Monaghan

**Wed 10:** Bairbre Uí Donnchadha

**Fri 9.30:** List of the Dead

**Next Saturday Vigil 6.15pm:**

Frank & Kathleen Hanily

**Next Sunday**

**9am:** Brendan Smith

**11.30am** John Carolan

Pat McGlynn,

dec Houston & Lynch families

**Baptisms:** contact Parish Office

**Offertory Collection**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

**Athboy** €1,130      Thank

**Rathmore** €290      You!

**Rathcairn** €185

**Christmas Offerings:** sincere  
thanks for your generous offerings.

RIP

**Mary Lynagh,**

*Parkview*

**May Hayes,**

*Barrack Lane*

**Phyllis McGuinness,**

*Connaught Street*

**Joe Murray**

*O'Growney Close & Kilskyre*

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**T**hank you to all who helped celebrate Christmas in our churches in Athboy, Rathmore & Rathcairn, to our servers, choirs, musicians, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, collectors & stewards, sacristans, those who arranged flowers and decorated the altar, all who helped prepare the crib and everyone who assisted in any way, Míle Buíochas!



*This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, seen as the model for the human family, the religious community, the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance of Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God, but we have to learn to live a life centred on God, with respect and love for each other.*

**New Year's Day is World Day of Prayer for Peace:** Pope Leo asks the world to pray for peace especially in places of conflict.

*A disarming peace*

"Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child. The mystery of the Incarnation, which reaches its deepest descent even to the realm of the dead, begins in the womb of a young mother and is revealed in the manger in Bethlehem. "Peace on earth," sing the angels, announcing the presence of a defenceless God, in whom humanity can discover itself as loved only by caring for him (cf. Lk 2:13-14). Nothing has the power to change us as much as a child. Perhaps it is precisely the thought of our children and of others who are equally fragile, that cuts to the heart (cf. Acts 2:37). In this regard, Pope Francis wrote that "human fragility has the power to make us more lucid about what endures and what passes, what brings life and what kills. Perhaps for this reason, we so often tend to deny our limitations and avoid fragile and wounded people: they have the power to question the direction we have chosen, both as individuals and as a community." John XXIII was the first pope to advocate "integral disarmament," which can only be achieved through renewal of the heart and mind. In *Pacem in Terris*, he wrote: "Everyone must realize that, unless this process of disarmament be thoroughgoing and complete, and reach people's very souls, it is impossible to stop the arms race, or to reduce armaments, or — and this is the main thing — ultimately to abolish them entirely. Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from our minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust. And we are confident that this can be achieved, for it is a thing which not only is dictated by common sense, but is in itself most desirable and most fruitful of good." **Pope Leo**