
Senior Team Kicks Off Season with Dominant Victory

by Shona Naughton

Holy Family faced Ardscoil na Tríonóide at Athy GAA grounds in their first challenge of the year. It was a sunny day with throw-in at 11:00.



Holy Family won the throw-in and immediately showed sharp passing, with Jessica McNulty linking up well with Ella Donellan. The first score came after 5 minutes, when Laura-Jane Kaye pulled off an impressive backward point to put Holy Family ahead. Kate Murphy followed with the first goal, quickly adding a point and another goal to extend the lead. Athy responded with a point and a goal, but Murphy kept Holy Family in control, adding another point. Athy's momentum was interrupted by Jessica McNulty's interception, which led to a point from Ella Murphy. A 45 from Holy Family resulted in another point from Kate Murphy before she added another goal. Aisling Irlhue then made a key block against Athy, leaving Holy Family up by 10 points after the first 20 minutes.

Athy managed a point from a free, but Sarah Phelan responded with excellent play, setting up Laura-Jane Kaye for another point. Kate McNulty then assisted Ella Murphy for a goal, and further teamwork led to a goal and two points from Ella Murphy. Laura-Jane Kaye added another point before Athy intercepted a Holy Family play, only for Grace Doyle to recover the ball from the Athy keeper, allowing Kaye to score again. With 20 minutes remaining, Holy Family led by 21 points.

Ella Murphy's kick pass to Ella Donellan resulted in a point, followed by a goal from Kaye after catching an Athy kick-out. Athy had some promising passing up the pitch but were intercepted by McNulty, who set up Ava Finnegan for a point. Kaye scored another point, and Holy Family brought on Kate Dunphy for Elsie Whelan. Athy managed a point with good passing, but Donellan scored another goal for Holy Family after a brilliant ball in. Despite another save from the Athy keeper, Finnegan regained possession for Holy Family and added a goal. Donellan then scored another point, and Kate Murphy added another after blocking an Athy push forward. Murphy's point was followed by a goal from Ella Murphy and a final point from Finnegan, sealing an emphatic victory.

Holy Family triumphed comfortably in their first match of the year. The team now looks ahead to their next game against Cross and Passion of Kilcullen at home on Friday the 27th. Well done to the Senior girls!