

Today's Readings

FIRST READING Acts 2:14,36-41

We hear in our reading in the Acts of the Apostles that Peter addresses the Jews assembled in Jerusalem. He tells them quite boldly that Jesus whom they crucified, by his Resurrection has been constituted Lord and Christ. Luke tells us that 'They were cut to the heart.' The purpose of Peter's address was to make them realise what they had done to Jesus with a view to getting them to repent and be baptised.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:20-25

In our second reading Peter urges slaves to bear their unjust suffering with patience, as Christ, the Good Shepherd, bore his sufferings for love us. To endure patiently, even when life is being unfair, is not simply meritorious: it is Christ-like. Christ did not retaliate; he did not threaten. He bore our sins and he bears with us.

THE GOSPEL. John 10:1-10

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we learn from Jesus that he wants us to have life and to live it to the full. To be able to live life to the full we need to hear his voice which can be crowded out by louder voices, such as those which lure us to other paths and ways of life. The lure of material comforts, of success. If we follow the voice of Jesus, he will lead us in the ways of love, and in this way we will lead full lives.

Vocations Sunday

"The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice."

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. Do you hear the voice of the Lord, the Good Shepherd calling you to a particular way of life?

If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the National Vocations Office, email: info@vocations.ie or our Diocesan Vocations Director Frank Mc Guinness on 087 9880690 or email frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie

Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. Vocation, more than our own choice, is a response to the Lord's unmerited call. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives. **(Pope Francis)**

Visiting the Churches in the Parish at this time

- Drum & Clonown Churches will be open for private prayer every day. Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit and practice social distancing during your visit.
- To facilitate social distancing for those visiting Ss. Peter and Paul's Church a number of the seats have been taped off. This will allow visitors the space to sit and pray in the knowledge that they can maintain their social distance and safeguard their health during their visit.
- For the time being Mass will be broadcast live at 9.30am Monday through Saturday and at 11am on Sundays. The web address for Mass is www.churchservices.tv/athlone
- Ss. Peter & Paul's Church will be open for private prayer Monday thru Saturday from 10am to 6pm and on Sunday from 12 noon to 6pm.

Daily opening time may vary if there is a funeral.

Funerals

- ◆ At this time we can still hold a funeral Mass when someone dies, however we are governed by the restrictions of the HSE and must limit the congregation to 10 people who sit socially distanced from each other in the church. For the Funeral Mass the priest will do all readings, prayers etc to comply with regulations. A soloist is permitted to sing at the Mass.
- ◆ If Covid-19 is present please discuss the options with the Funeral Director & Fr. John.

**Please do not make unnecessary journeys.
Stay safe stay well.**

Stay with us Lord; for it is almost Evening

Short Online Reflections

The six Western Dioceses (the Tuam Province) have planned a new initiative as part of the ongoing response to the pastoral challenge presented by COVID-19. One of the important Gospel stories of these Easter days is the account of how the two disciples met the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus and how they asked him: "Stay With Us Lord ; it is almost Evening". With this in mind, we are inviting you to join us for a short (20 min.) Reflection, each Sunday evening at 6.30 pm between now and Pentecost. Each reflection will be given by a different guest presenter and will be broadcast on webcam from a different location in the West. This Sunday, Deacon Frank McGuinness will give the reflection live from St Patrick's Church, Strandhill www.churchservices.tv/strandhill

Mass intentions this Week in Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish
All Masses are streamed on www.churchservices.tv/athlone.
There are no Masses in Drum or Clonown Churches due to the Coronavirus restrictions. All booked intentions will be included in the Mass from Ss. Peter & Paul's Church each day.

For the duration of the Coronavirus restrictions the Masses will not be said in public to conform with Government Policy & for the protection of health.

Sunday 3 rd May	11:00 am	Larry Fagan, Terry Byrne Tom & Mary Henry, Drumlosh. Tommy & Frank Ward, Currnaboll. Bridget & Bernard Tully Patrick & Thomas O'Reilly & Dec Family Members
Monday	9:30 am	Mass for all who are sick
Tuesday	9:30 am	Jack, Ellen & Elizabeth Rushe & Dec Members of the Quinn & Rushe Families
Wednesday	9:30 am	Mass for our Frontline Workers
Thursday	9:30 am	Willie & Kathleen Ward , Tommy & Frank Ward Donal & Eileen Murphy.
Friday	9:30 am	Paul Gibson , James & Jane Connaughton , Anne Moran, Marie Hannon, Jean Fitzpatrick, Gerry Fitzpatrick, Timmy Fitzpatrick, Thomas & Josephine Connor, Clonark. Sons, Paddy Joe, Harry and Tom. Daughter, Martha and husband Michael;
Saturday	9:30 am	Mary Maisie Maguire & Pat Maguire; Eileen Moran; Kate & John Fitzmaurice; Margaret Fallon; Frank & Rose Lennon, Curryroe;
Sunday 10 th May	11:00 am	Frank & Maureen Sherlock & Mary Sherlock; Tommy Gordon; Joe Egan, Callowbeg & Dec family members; Mattie Redmond, Thomastown.

Parish Finances

I am very aware of the stresses on people financially throughout this period of restrictions, however following on from a number of enquiries regarding contributing financially to the parish during these days of restrictions. There are a number of ways you can do so.

- You can arrange to have your envelopes / contribution dropped into one of the Priests houses.
- You can place your weekly contribution aside each week and drop them all in together when the restrictions are lifted.
- You could organise to set up a standing order from your bank each week / month
- We are working on an online system where a contribution could be made securely through our website by credit or debit card.

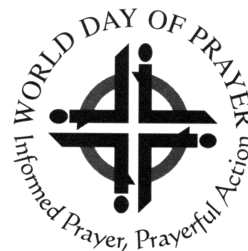
As you are aware normally a collection for the support of the priests is taken up on Easter Sunday, Due to the restrictions and reality of where people find themselves at the moment we will postpone this until things return to normal.

I would like to thank those who have sent in contributions to this collection.

May 3rd 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Vocations Sunday

St. Peter & Pauls Parish
Athlone, Drum, Clonown

Parish Newsletter



Our Parish on-line

Email: stpetersparishathlone@gmail.com
www.sspeterandpaulsparishathlone.com
[Facebook.com/Sspeterandpaulsparish](https://www.facebook.com/Sspeterandpaulsparish) -

Twitter ; @stpetersathlone

Live Camera Feed

www.churchservices.tv/athlone

Ongoing Pastoral Care in our Parish

We remain available to respond to sick calls, pastoral needs or if you want a chat during this period of restrictions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

For Sick / House Call requests please call Fr. John 0906 6490874

Fr. John Deignan P.P.	090-6490874	frjohndeignan@gmail.com
Fr. Bernard Ngalame C.C.	090 -6492171	bernardngalame@gmail.com
Fr. Michael Hickey CSSp	090-6437125	michaelhickeycssp@gmail.com

The Parish Offices in Forthill House & Drum are closed for the foreseeable future

St Peters Parish Covid-19 Community Response Group

A voluntary community response group has been established in the Parish of Ss Peter and Paul's Athlone (Including Drum & Clonown Areas) to assist those who may be self isolating or cocooned, to get groceries, medications etc, or lonely at this time.

For Assistance 24 / 7 call 087 7195022

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite me wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Please remember to check in on your neighbours especially those who live alone or are elderly, a phone call or a kind gesture can make a huge difference to many.