



PARISH OF
SS. PETER & PAUL
Athlone, Drum & Clonown

3rd December 2023



December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

Parish Contact Details

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Safeguarding Rep: Lisa Malone 087 144 0833

Parish Pastoral Council: John Daly *Chairperson* c/o Parish Office

Sacristy Ss. Peter & Paul's Church (attended at Mass times only) 090 6494150

Sacristans' Christine Kenny & Tom O'Neill

Baptism, Confirmation & Marriage Certificates
are issued from the Sacristy (090 64 94 150)

To Contact the Priest on Duty Call 085 870 5840

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 2nd December to Sunday 10th December 2023

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED on www.churchservices.tv/athlone

Saturday 2nd December	9.30 am 6.30 pm Vigil	(IS) Also Live Streamed No Intention. (JW) Also Live Streamed Bridie Mc Connell.
Sunday 3rd December	9.00 am 12.00 noon	(MH) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish. (RM) Also Live Streamed Rosie & Willie Milton. Kathleen Byrne. Ultan & Marie Shanahan.
Monday 4th December	9.30 am	(IS) Also Live Streamed Catherine Lyons; Patrick & Mary Maughan Followed by Novena & Benediction
Tuesday 5th December	9.30 am	(IS) Also Live Streamed Private Intention
Wednesday 6th December	9.30 am	(JW) Also Live Streamed Michael J, Brigid, Mary, William & James Lyons Tommy Ward, John Ward Jnr, Aileen Ward, Michael Fortune, Brendan O'Reilly, Sean O'Donoghue
Thursday 7th December	6.00 pm 9.30 am	(JD) Blessed Sacrament Chapel (JW) Also Live Streamed Patrick & Rose Kirby, Patrick & Veronica O'Hanlon
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady		
Friday 8th December	6.30pm Vigil 9.30 am 12 noon	(JW) (JD) Also Live Streamed Jack & May Laffan, Katty Brennan, Bill & Peggy Browne-Tone, Tony & Ambrose Browne (IS) Also Live Streamed Joseph Irwin & Gerard Walsh
NO FRIDAY EVENING MASS		
Saturday 9th December	9.30 am 6.30 pm Vigil	(JD) Also Live Streamed Tommy, Rose, Seamus & Mary Reynolds (IS) Also Live Streamed Gerry Molloy (1st Anniversary)
Sunday 10th December	9.00 am 12.00 noon	(JD) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish. (JD) Also Live Streamed Gerard Holohan Snr & Jnr Maureen, Sean & Michael Brennan

A prayer for the first week of Advent

When we wake up, each day this week, we could light a candle, just by taking a few moments to focus. We could pause for a minute at the side of our bed, or while putting on our slippers or our robe, and light an inner candle. Who among us doesn't have time to pause for a moment?

We could each find our own way to pray something like this:

"Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my trust in you. It is a weak flame, but I so much desire that it dispel a bit more darkness today. Today, I just want to taste the longing I have for you as I go to the meeting this morning, carry out the responsibilities of my work, face the frustration of some difficult relationships. Let this candle be my reminder today of my hope in your coming."

Come, Lord Jesus! Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.

Weekly Newsletter

The readings for the First Sunday in Advent are a call to be alert in waiting for the coming of the Lord. The first reading begs the Lord to return to us and save us. The psalm also asks God to look upon us and have mercy. The second reading calls us to remain steadfast in our discipleship. And in the gospel, Jesus warns us to be watchful. Not everyone will be ready in the final hour.

- **Vigilance:** The passage emphasizes the importance of being watchful and alert. It suggests that one must always be prepared for significant events or the return of Christ, as the exact time is unknown.
- **Preparedness:** The theme of preparedness is linked to the concept of vigilance. It implies that one should live in a state of readiness, both spiritually and morally, for the end times or second coming.
- **Accountability:** The passage indicates that there will be a time of reckoning. It teaches that individuals are responsible for their actions and must be ready to account for them at any unexpected moment.
- **Faithfulness in Duty:** Servants are instructed to carry out their tasks diligently. This reflects the broader spiritual principle that followers should be consistent in their responsibilities and faithful in their duties.
- **The Unpredictability of God's Timing:** The text stresses that the timing of divine actions is not for humans to know. It challenges believers to trust in God's timing and plan, despite not knowing the details.

Advent 2023

Next Weekend we begin advent. The celebration of Advent takes place on the four weeks prior to Christmas, and follows four weekly themes; **hope, peace, joy** and **love** and ends on Christmas Eve. **The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.**

- **Hope:** During the first week, we focus on the theme of Hope. The first candle symbolizes our anticipation and hope for the coming of Christ. It serves as a reminder that even in the midst of darkness, there is always the promise of light and new beginnings.
- **Think about doing** an act of charity or giving up something you really like to help focus your mind towards the beautiful celebration of the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus, on Christmas night.

Advent Scripture

Fr. Innocent & Fr. Joseph will host three nights of exploring scripture in Advent. The sessions will be held in **Forthill House on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm**, they will last about an hour.

We will meet to pray some psalms, listen to and reflect together on the Gospel passage of the coming Sunday, and to pray some short prayers of praise, gratitude and petition all in a relaxed and friendly environment.

All are very welcome

Monksland Community Mass

The December Mass will be held on Thursday evening at 8pm in Monksland Community Centre. In the Mass we will focus on preparing ourselves for the birth of Christ.

Tea and festive fayre will be served afterwards,

ALL are Welcome

Tap machine for donations.

We have introduced a "Tap Machine" for donations to Ss. Peter & Paul's Church. In doing so it is **not** to replace the weekly collection but rather to give visitors to the church an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of our beautiful church.

The Tap Machine contributions in November came to €525. Thank you

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection November 26th €1490.

We thank those who donate through the online link on the Parish Website.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions and generosity.

Drum Mass Intentions for Dec 2nd - Dec 10th

Sat. 2nd Dec. at 8 p.m. (IS) Mike Naughton, England (formerly from Culfatha).
 Sun. 3rd. At 10 a.m. (JD) Pat, Bridie & Sean Caulfield, Summerhill. &, deceased family members.
 Tues. 5 th . at 7 p.m. (MH) No Intention.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

Thurs. 7 th . at 8 p.m. (IS) Peter and Maureen Killian, Crancam. &, deceased family members.
 Fri. 8 th . at 10 a.m. (JD) Jim Nugent, Summerhill
 Sat. 9 th . at 8 p.m. - (MH) Mary Macken, Lisdillure.
 Sun. 10 th . at 10 a.m. (JW) Anna May Bruce formerly Castlecoote (40 th Anniversary).



Clonown Mass Intentions for Dec 3rd - Dec 10th

Sun. 3rd. at 11.15 a.m (JW) Johnny Shine, Currnaboll.
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady
 Dec. 8 th . at 8 p.m. (JW) Johnny and Mary Flynn, Clonown Also, Sonny Egan.
 Dec. 10th at 11.15a.m. (MH) Seán Shine, Buggane.



Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the soul of: Sr. Marian (Sr. Vincent) Berrigan formerly Clonark. Jody Harney, Crannaghmore. Seamus O'Neill, Caltra, Ballinasloe. Brother- in-law of the Naughton family, Johnstown. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Roscommon Solstice Choir Christmas Concert

featuring the wonderful children from Ballymurray National School in St. Patrick's Church Knockcroghery on December 10th at 6pm!

Tickets on sale now in Gleeson's, Eight till Late and Eason's. €15

Raffle on the night with all proceeds going to Ballymurray National School Development Fund.

The Legion of Mary

invites you to join them in praying the Rosary at the Grotto in St John Paul Park on Friday, December 8th, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 6pm. All are welcome

COFFEE AND CHAT

Join us at "Caife Connect" and meet other keen users of the Irish language. Monday 4/12/23 at 11.00. Location: Athlone Family Resource Centre, Unit 14, ACT, Parnell Square N37 C8W6

Take time as a couple

You and your spouse/ fiancée are invited to a CANA evening for couples to share some refreshments, explore relationship-related topics, and pray with other couples on Saturday 9th Dec @ 5 pm to 7.30 pm, Ceili House, Harbour Rd, Kibbeggan, Co. Westmeath N91 NY28. For more info. please email canaireland@gmail.com or call Victoria at 085 102 5464

This year's Samaritans concert will take place on Wednesday, December 6. and feature the Army Band of the 2nd Brigade, its Conductor Captain John Carpenter, Mezzo Soprano Gemma Ní Bhriain, the Athlone Town Pipe Band, and Athlone A Cappella. **TICKETS €18.**

The Samaritans are available 24 hours a day on freephone 116 123 for anyone who is lonely, troubled or needs to talk to someone in confidence.

Community Employment Vacancies

St. Peter's Parish C.E. Project CLG., St. Peter's Parish Centre, Chapel Street, Athlone. N37YX27 Tel: 090 6493270
The Following Community Employment Positions are available on our Project.

Job Ref:	Position	Project Area
2253037	Cleaner/Caretaker	Monksland Community Centre.
2253032	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Gentex Football Club.
2253044	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Monksland Community Centre.
2253048	Caretaker/Grounds-person	St. Francis Football Club.
2258047	Environmental Worker	Monksland Tidy Towns.
2305547	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Drum Church & Parish Hall.

Please note that you must be eligible for Community Employment in order to apply for the above positions. For more information please contact the above telephone number Monday to Friday between 9am To 1pm. A video on CE can be seen in the 'What's Going On' section of the Jobsireland website, at end of the homepage."