



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

## 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent



### Gaudete Sunday

#### Parish Contact Details

**V. Rev John Deignan P.P.** 10 Ashford, Monksland  
090 - 6490874 **Regular phone & WhatsApp**  
frjohndeignan@gmail.com

**Fr Innocent Sunu C.C.** Forthill House, Battery Road, 090 - 6492171

**Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus C.C.** Forthill House, Battery Road, 090 - 6492171

**Ss. Peter & Paul's Office:** Martina McSweeney, Forthill House,  
**Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm 090 - 6492171**  
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**Fr. Michael Hickey CSSp** Catherine Higgins Secretary 090 - 64 37125  
**Drum area Office:** **drumparish1@gmail.com**

**Deacon Tony Larkin:** Chaplain Colaiste Chairáin 085 739 2473  
deacontony17@gmail.com

**Parish Organist:** PJ Stacey 087 248 6206

**Folk Group:** Frank Conroy 086 860 5333

**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 16th December to Sunday 24th December 2023

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED on [www.churchservices.tv/athlone](http://www.churchservices.tv/athlone)

<b>Saturday</b> 16th December	9.30 am	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> Agnes Hanley, Sr. Lourdes Hynes, Mary & Michael Kelly, sons Michael & Bernard & daughter Phylis Macken.
	6.30 pm Vigil	<b>(MH) Also Live Streamed</b> Bridget Carty (1st Anniversary). Karen Harkins & her Mother Kathy.
<b>Sunday</b> 17th December	9.00 am	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> <b>People of the Parish.</b>
	12.00 noon	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Terry O'Neill (Months Mind). Breda Grenham.
<b>Monday</b> 18th December	9.30 am	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> William, Mathew Malachy, Tom Ward, Matt, Ciss, Brian & Ann Flynn. <b>Followed by Novena &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 19th December	9.30 am	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> Thanksgiving Mass.
<b>Wednesday</b> 20th December	9.30 am	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Michael Snr., Sally, Michael Jnr., Marie, Basil & Nuala Casserley.
	6.00 pm	<b>(IS) Blessed Sacrament Chapel</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 21st December	9.30 am	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Mary Masie Mc Guire. Gertie & Johnny Farrell. Bridie, Freddy, William & Tony Warby.
<b>Friday</b> 22nd December	9.30 am	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> Luke Duignan & Son Tom.
	7.30 pm	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> Larry Watson, Martha, Peter Snr. & Peter Jnr. Grehan. James & Mary Ganly. Ellen Quain. Ellen Wyllie & the Quain Family.
<b>Saturday</b> 23rd December	9.30 am	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> No Intention.
	6.30 pm Vigil	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Tom, Mary & Caitriona Egan & dec. family members.
<b>Sunday</b> 24th December	9.00 am	<b>(MH) Also Live Streamed</b> People of the Parish.
	12.00 noon	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> No Intention.

#### A prayer for the third week of Advent

*Lord Jesus,*

*Master of both the light and the darkness,*

*send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day,*

*We who are anxious over many things look forward to Your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.*

*We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.*

*To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"*

*Amen.*

*Henri J.M. Nouwen*

The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Year B (Gaudete Sunday) encourage us to rejoice because our salvation is near. The first reading foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one. The psalm is the Magnificat - "My soul rejoices in my God." The second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks. And in the gospel John the Baptist tells the priests that he is not the Christ, but that the Messiah is coming.

- Witness to the Light: John the Baptist's role as a witness to the light, who is Jesus, is emphasized. This theme highlights the importance of testifying to Jesus as the true Light who brings divine truth and life.
- Identity and Mission of John the Baptist: John's clear denial of being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet reflects his understanding of his own identity and mission. This theme illustrates the importance of knowing one's role in God's plan and staying true to it.
- Humility in Service: John's declaration of unworthiness to untie Jesus' sandals showcases his humility. It teaches that true greatness in God's kingdom comes from recognizing one's own humbleness and the superiority of Jesus.
- Preparation for the Messiah: John's role in preparing the way for Jesus underscores the theme of making oneself ready for the Messiah's coming. It calls for spiritual readiness and openness to receive Christ.

### Christmas times 2023

- **Christmas Confessions** After all Masses this weekend  
After Masses on Christmas Eve (until 2pm)

- **Masses**  
**Ss. Peter & Paul's Church**  
**Christmas Eve** **Childrens Mass** 6pm **Christmas Vigil Mass** 9pm  
**Christmas Day** 9am, 10.30am & 12 noon



- St Brigid's Church Drum**  
**Christmas Eve** 8pm  
**Christmas Day** 10am & 11.30am
- Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown**  
**Christmas Eve** 8pm  
**Christmas Day** 11.15am

### Christmas Collection for the Support of the Clergy

Envelopes for the Christmas collection for the support of the clergy will be delivered in the coming days, these can be returned through the collection at Mass or dropped into the sacristy or parish office. If you do not receive an envelope you can use any envelope marked "support of the clergy". This is one of four collections that go to support the clergy each year. The clergy are never paid from the Sunday collection. WE thank you for your on-going support and prayers.

### Young People preparing for the Sacraments in 2024

We have more than 300 Young People preparing for the Sacraments in 2024. The day they receive First Holy Communion or the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is a very special day in their lives. Please pray for them and if you know a young person who will be receiving the Sacraments please encourage them in their preparation.

### HOLY HOUR in Kiltoom Church

There will be a Holy Hour on Tuesday 19th December at 8pm in The Church of The Risen Christ, Kiltoom. 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.*

**Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection December 10th €1,785**  
**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 16th - Dec 24th

Sat. 16 th . 8 p.m. -	(JD)	Eamon, Edward and Annie Griffin, Ardkeenan.
Sun. 17 th . 10 a.m. -	(MH)	Paddy and Elizabeth Halligan, Crannaghbeg.
Tues. 19 th . 7 p.m. -	(MH)	Eugene Nolan, Doohan. Also, his daughter Margaret Nolan Fitzgerald.
Thurs. 21 st . 7 p.m. -	(MH)	No Intention.
Sat. 23 rd . 8 p.m. -	(JW)	Kieran and Agnes O'Brien, Creggane.
Sun. 24 th . 10 a.m. -	(IS)	No Intention.
Sun. 24 th . 8 p.m. -	(MH)	Vigil Mass for Christmas Day.



### Clonown Mass Intentions for Dec 10th - Dec 24th

Dec. 17th 11.15 am	(IS)	Roddy and Bridget Hardiman, Also, deceased members of the Hardiman and Dunning families Drumlosh.
Dec. 24th 11.15 a.m.	(JD)	No Intention.
Dec. 24th 8 p.m.	(IS)	Vigil Mass for Christmas Day.



Christmas Tree in Drum Cemetery:

Ribbons will be available to place on the Christmas tree from Dec 17th and will be left at the back of the church. You may wish to put a name on a ribbon and place it in the box provided or bring it home with you.

### Advent Scripture

Fr. Innocent & Fr. Joseph will host the third night of exploring scripture in Advent. The session will be held in **Forthill House on Thursday evening at 7.30pm**, and 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**

### Accord

Accord are currently taking booking's for Pre-Marriage courses. Please contact the Sligo Accord Centre at 071-9145641 or [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie) The Pre-Marriage course should be booked at least 6-8 months before the wedding.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library will stop in the Supervalu carpark, Monksland on Thursday 21st December from 1pm – 3:30pm. We have a great selection of books, CDs, DVDs, e-books and audiobooks for all ages and library membership is free.

## Waiting for the Saviour

### Family / House Masses

If you would like to have a Mass in your home for your family or neighbours please contact the priest for your area who would be delighted to oblige.

*House Masses can not be facilitated on Saturdays or Sundays.*  
**(please give notice to allow for other events in the priests diary)**

### 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."**