

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 23rd December to Sunday 7th January 2024

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

Saturday 23rd December	6.30 pm Vigil	(JD) Also Live Streamed Tom, Mary & Caitriona Egan & dec. family members.
Sunday 24th December	9.00 am	(MH) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish.
	12.00 noon	(JW) Also Live Streamed
	6.00pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Childrens Mass
	9.00pm Vigil	(JD) Also Live Streamed Christmas Vigil Mass
Monday 25th December	9.00am	(JW) Also Live Streamed
	10.30am	(JD) Also Live Streamed
	12.00pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Tom & Teresa Flynn.
Tuesday 26th December	12.00pm	(IS) Also Live Streamed Martin & Christine Egan. Nuala Gordon. Madge & Tom Flanagan. Brendan Egan.
Wednesday 27th December	12.00pm	(IS) Also Live Streamed Paddy & Nellie Harvey.
	6.00 pm	(JW) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 28th December	12.00pm	(JW) Also Live Streamed Ned & Mai Halligan.
Friday 29th December	12.00pm	(JW) Also Live Streamed
	7.30pm	(IS) Also Live Streamed Billy Evans.
Saturday 30th December	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed Ann & Denis Cleary.
	6.30pm Vigil	(JW) Also Live Streamed
Sunday 31st December	9.00am	(MH) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish
	12.00pm	(MH) Also Live Streamed Patricia Duffy (nee Harte) 1st Anniversary.
Monday 1st January	9.30am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Paddy Sweeney (New Year Remembrance). John Casey RIP.
Tuesday 2nd Jan.	9.30am	(JD) Also Live Streamed
Wednesday 3rd Jan.	9.30am	(IS) Also Live Streamed
	6.00 pm	(JW) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 4th January	9.30am	(IS) Also Live Streamed Private Intention.
Friday 5th January	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed
	7.30pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Paddy & Julia Conway, son Joseph & grandson Joseph.
Saturday 6th January	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed Rosemary O'Sullivan.
	6.30pm	(IS) Also Live Streamed
Sunday 7th January	9.00am	(JD) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish
	12.00pm	(MH) Also Live Streamed Bernie Mc Loughlin. Joe Ducke & his niece Clodagh. Christine & Bill Dunne.



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

To Contact the Priest on Duty Call 085 870 5840



Christmas 2023

Christmas Newsletter

A Christmas Message from Fr. John

The season of Christmas is a time that holds a lot of emotions for us.

- For some it's a time of great joy as we recall and remember happy days of our childhood.
- For some it's the anticipation of meeting family and friends we have not seen in a long time.
- For children it's the expectation of what Santa might bring.
- For many it's the sadness of the empty chair, sometimes because of a family death, sometimes because of distance and sometimes because of an issue within the family.
- For many in this community they will miss the presence of a husband or wife, a son or daughter, a brother or sister, who are working overseas with the defence forces.

One thing we all have in common at Christmas is the reality of celebrating the Birth of Christ. 2023 has been a strange year, as the cost of living continued to rise, as wars and conflict around the world began to affect us all. It has been a year when our faith has been challenged, when hope seemed impossible, and joy was in short supply.

In a few short days we will remember and celebrate the Birth of Christ. A child that came to bring us a message from God, GOD LOVES US, NOT JUST SOME OF US, ALL OF US. With this message he invites us to explore our faith, discover our hope and find the Joy that only he can give.

On Christmas eve night at 9pm I invite you to join me in person or on line as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and invite him into our hearts and homes as we pray for peace and unity in our world.

*Thanking you all for your kindness, support, and prayers in 2023.
I wish you the Peace of this very Holy Season, may we all be blessed with,
Faith, Hope and Joy.*

Fr. John

Parish Office

The parish office will be closed for Christmas Holidays from Friday December 22nd to Tuesday January 2nd.

**Should you wish to contact a priest during the Christmas period
please call the on-call number 085 870 5840.**

Christmas Collection for the Support of the Clergy

The collection at Masses on Christmas Day is to support the priests in the parish.

This is one of four collections each year that go to their support.

Each parish must provide for the support of its clergy, they are never paid from the normal Sunday Collection.

We thank you for your on-going support.

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 17th €1,415.

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 24th - Jan 7th 2024

Sat. 23rd 8 p.m.	(JW)	Pake and Agnes O'Brien, Creggane.
Sun. 24th 10 a.m.	(IS)	No Intention.
Sun. 24th 8 p.m.	(MH)	Vigil Mass for Christmas Day.
Mon. 25th 10 a.m.	(MH)	Christmas Day – People of the Parish.
Mon. 25th 11.30 a.m.	(MH)	Christmas Day – People of the Parish.
Tues. 26th 7 p.m.	(MH)	Tom and Mary Hynes, Johnstown. Also, Jim and Lil Hynes.
Thurs. 28th 7 p.m.	(MH)	No Intention.
Sat. 30th 8 p.m.	(IS)	Jody Harney, Crannaghmore. Month's Mind.
Sun. 31st 10 a.m.	(JW)	Patrick and Mary Lennon, Ardkeenan. & their daughter Mary.
Tues. 2nd 7 p.m.	(MH)	Colm, Mamie and Bill Kennedy, Johnstown. & dec family members.
Thurs. 4th 7 p.m.	(MH)	No Intention.
Fri. 5th 8 p.m.	(MH)	Willie Harney, Doohan. Also, deceased family members.
Sat. 6th 10 a.m.	(JW)	P.J., Eileen and John McEvelly, Johnstown.
Sat. 6th 8 p.m.	(JD)	John, Bridie, Thomas and Denis Harney, Curraghaleen.
Sun. 7th 10 a.m.	(IS)	John and Margaret Murray, Creggane. & dec members of the Murray and Reynolds families.



Clonown Mass Intentions for Dec 24th - January 7th

Sun. 24th 11.15 a.m.	(JD)	No Intention.
Sun. 24th 8 p.m.	(IS)	Vigil Mass for Christmas Day.
Dec. 25th 11.15 a.m.	(IS)	Christmas Day – People of the Parish.
Dec. 31st 11.15 a.m.	(IS)	John, Delia and Michael Dunning, The Park.
Jan. 6th 11.15 a.m.	(IS)	No Intention.
Jan. 7th 11.15 a.m.	(MH)	No Intention.



Christmas times 2023

Christmas Confessions

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

Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown

Christmas Eve 8pm

Christmas Eve 8pm

Christmas Day 10am & 11.30am

Christmas Day 11.15am

Bishops share messages for Christmas 2023

In his Christmas message, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, reflects on an Advent prayer, that poses the question,

'May we inherit that great promise in which now we dare to hope.'

The prayer reads; "He assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation..."

This profound prayer from the first Advent preface is particularly relevant this year as we dare to hope for Christmas peace and joy in the midst of a very troubled world.

In Bishop Donal McKeown's message, he tells us about a pilgrimage he made earlier this year to the Holy Land. **He writes,** "It is very moving to kneel at the site of his birth within the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, reflecting on the precarious circumstances in which the Christ-child was born. Jesus knew the never-ending reality of how conflict, violence and war threaten, endanger and overshadow our beautiful world. Despite – or perhaps because of – our highly developed technologies the world continues to be a precarious place for children to be born."

Finally, in Bishop Ger Nash's Christmas message, he also reflects on the ongoing war in the Holy Land and Ukraine, and the life-destroying famine in East Africa, and the impact these tragedies are having on the lives of the children there. **He writes;** "The terror of hunger, fear or maiming should be far from every child's life and yet we see it daily in our media. It is right to reflect on these matters as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the baby who was God himself."