

The readings for the 4th Sunday in Easter Year B (Good Shepherd Sunday) demonstrate that Jesus Christ cares for us as a shepherd cares for his flock. Jesus explains that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep and will do anything to save them.

The 4th Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, Year B, brings together themes that are central to understanding our relationship with Jesus and our identity as Christians. Here are the key themes based on the readings: **Repentance and Forgiveness:**

- **Jesus as the Good Shepherd:** The Gospel clearly portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, indicating His sacrificial love and commitment to us.
- **Salvation Through Jesus:** Peter's speech in Acts underscores that salvation is exclusively found in Jesus Christ, emphasizing His role as the cornerstone of our faith.
- **Our Identity as Children of God:** The letter from John reminds us that we are deeply loved children of God, an identity that the world might not recognize but is foundational to our Christian life.
- **The Universality of Christ's Call:** Jesus mentions He has other sheep not of this flock, highlighting the inclusive nature of His mission and the universal call to be part of one flock under one shepherd.
- **Voluntary Sacrifice and Authority of Christ:** Jesus' assertion that He lays down His life voluntarily and has the authority to take it up again speaks to His divine authority and the voluntary nature of His sacrifice for us.
- **The Role of Faith in Understanding Our Identity and Mission:** The readings together invite us to reflect on how faith in Jesus as the Good Shepherd and cornerstone helps us understand our identity as God's children and our mission in the world.

These themes invite us to reflect on the depth of Jesus' love and sacrifice, our identity as beloved children of God, and the call to unity and mission in the vast flock of Christ.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the young people from our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Kevin during the last week. May that same spirit always lead and guide them in their lives.



### Vocations Sunday

This Sunday "Good Shepherd Sunday" is also the day set aside for us to focus on Vocations.

I firmly believe that God continues to call men and women to dedicate their lives in formal ministry to the church. I can only speak for myself in saying that my vocation has blessed me in ways I could never have imagined. While there can be difficult days and difficult situations being the minister of God in those times shows a different perspective on life. Priesthood is a very worthwhile way of life, it gives a satisfaction that many others ways of life can not. If you feel called to be a priest please at least give it some consideration and speak to someone who can help you explore the calling. If you wish to explore priesthood in our own diocese you can email vocations@elphindiocese.ie or visit the diocesan website.

*Fr. John*

### Comhaltas Áth Luain presents

Traditional Irish Music Open session for all ages and abilities Sunday 21st April, 4 - 6pm. The Knights of Columbanus Hall, St. Mary's Square. **Free admission, refreshments served, all 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 April 14th €1,620.**

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

**Thank you for your ongoing contributions and generosity.**

[www.sspeterandpaulsparishathlone.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulsparishathlone.com)

### Drum Mass Intentions for April 20th - April 28th.

- Sat. 20<sup>th</sup>. at 8 p.m. **(JD)** John and Andy Kenny, Dugra/Rooskey. Also, deceased family members.
- Sun. 21<sup>st</sup>. at 10 a.m. **(MH)** Maura McCormack(nee Glynn), formerly Crannaghmore.
- Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup>. at 7 p.m. **(MH)** No Intention.
- Thurs. 25<sup>th</sup>. at 7 p.m. **(MH)** Francis Henry. Also, Mary Ann Fensom, parents James and Mary Henry, Clonellan.
- Sat. 27<sup>th</sup>. at 8 p.m. **(MH)** James and Martin Kelly. Also, parents John and Ellen, Thomastown.
- Sun. 28<sup>th</sup>. at 10 a.m. **(JD)** Donal Shine. Drum.



### Clonown Mass Intentions for April 21st - April 28th.

- April 21<sup>st</sup>. at 11.15 a.m. **(JW)** Tommy and May Curley, Clonown. Also, daughters Mary and Francie.
- April 28<sup>th</sup>. at 11.15 a.m. **(IS)** Tommy and Frank Ward, Curranaboll.



### Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of Helen Bannon, Halls Bridge. Mary Duggan (née Donoghue), London and Skyvalley. Sister to Collette Webster, Crannaghbeg.  
**May they rest in the peace of Christ.**

### Ardkeen National School

Are taking part in the **Cash for Clobber** scheme as they work towards our Eco-school Green Flag award. The scheme is aimed at raising awareness of textile recycling among children and to show how essential it is for everyone in the 'developed world' to reduce, reuse and recycle and is also a great way of raising funds for our school. We are having our next bag drop collection on Sun 21st of April 2024 from 9.30am to 11am, Mon 22nd from 8.45 to 10am at Drum Parish Hall. What can you put in the bag? All types of clothing (even with holes!) Bags and shoes (please tie shoes together with laces), Hats and belts, towels and curtains, Bed linen (sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers. Remember **NO QUILTS OR PILLOWS** and all items must be clean.

### Samaritans

If you are feeling lonely, depressed, isolated or need to talk to someone about something that is bothering you. **Call the Samaritans on 116 123, 24hrs a day, 365 days a year.**

### Bus to National Pilgrimage for Life in Knock

On Saturday 4th May leaving Athlone at 10.30am. Fare €20. Booking essential. Contact Siobhan on **083 0254 809** before 9pm Sun 27th.

### The Youth 2000 Connaught Retreat

Will take place in Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Co. Galway on the weekend of May 10th to 12th, consisting of workshops, talks, testimonies, music, prayer and time to relax & meet with others. Come along for the weekend or pop in & say hello! Donation only, 16-35yrs. To book a place or for more information, visit [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or email [connaught@youth2000.ie](mailto:connaught@youth2000.ie).

### 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
2329939	Caretaker/Grounds Person	St. Peters Parish Centre.
2324666	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2325920	Cleaner/Caretaker	Monksland Community Centre.
2325924	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Gentex Football Club.
2325146	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Monksland Community Centre.
2325925	Environmental Worker	Monksland Tidy Towns.

**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."**

**SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions**  
**Saturday 20th April to Sunday 28th April 2024**

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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> Patricia Irwin.
<b>20th April</b>	<b>6.30pm Vigil</b>	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> James Dolan (Month's Mind). David Hudson 1st Anniversary. Sandra De Rosa 1st Anniversary & her father Paul Gibson.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> <b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>21st April</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Kathleen Lynch ( Baylough). Angela Coyle. Tom Shaw & deceased family members. John & Kitty Sloyan & great granddaughter Nicole Collison.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> Michael & Bridie Nolan.
<b>22nd April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> John Shine.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> No Intention.
<b>23rd April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Blessed Sacrament Chapel</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Thanksgiving Mass.
<b>24th April</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> Mary Ann Duignan & her son Tom.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b> Bernard Browne & deceased members of the Browne & Foster Families.
<b>25th April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> Tommy & Kathleen Kenny.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b> Katie Connaire 1st Anniversary. Martin Maher (month's mind). Harold Slamon who died in England & whose ashes will be interred in Coosan cemetery on Monday 29th April @ 12pm. Remember the deceased members of the Slamon & Lavelle families.
<b>26th April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>(JD) Also Live Streamed</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b>
<b>27th April</b>	<b>6.30pm Vigil</b>	<b>(IS) Also Live Streamed</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>(JW) Also Live Streamed</b> <b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>28th April</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>(MH) Also Live Streamed</b> Marie Farrell. Lorraine Degg (née Mc Loughlin). Pat & Babs Treacy. Tommy & Mary Moran.

**A prayer for Vocations**

Through the power of your Spirit, enlighten and inspire many young men and women of our time to heed your invitation to follow you in the priesthood and religious life. Give them the courage and the grace to surrender themselves completely to your service. Help them to bring your gifts of love, hope and salvation to all those who await their generous and wholehearted 'yes' to your call. Amen

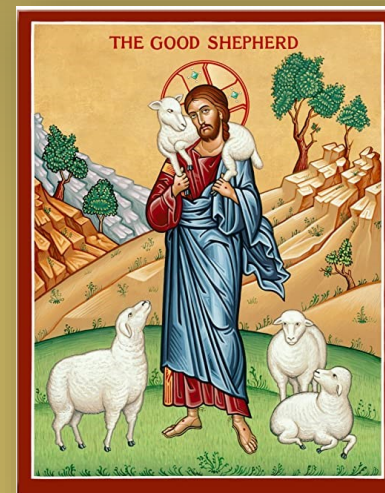


PARISH OF  
**SS. PETER & PAUL**  
 Athlone, Drum & Clonown

**21st April 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Good Shepherd Sunday**  
**(Vocations Sunday)**

I am the good shepherd, and I  
 know mine and mine know me,  
 just as the Father knows me and I  
 know the Father; and I will lay  
 down my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15



**Parish Contact Details**

**V. Rev John Deignan P.P.** 10 Ashford, Monksland.  
 090 - 6490874 **Regular phone & WhatsApp**  
[frjohndeignan@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
**Email; [stpetersparishathlone@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersparishathlone@gmail.com)**  
*(Drum / Clonown Areas) 090 - 64 37125*

**Fr. Michael Hickey CSSp** Catherine Higgins Secretary 090 - 64 37125  
**Drum area Office:** [drumparish1@gmail.com](mailto:drumparish1@gmail.com)

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

**Weekly Newsletter**