

The readings for the The Ascension of the Lord for Year B encourage us to being open to the Holy Spirit and willing to spread the Good News. The first reading tells of Jesus' ascent into heaven and his promise to send the Holy Spirit. The second reading asks for the Holy Spirit to come to us so we can declare the kingship of Jesus Christ. And in the gospel, Jesus gives us the Great Commission, to go and spread the gospel.

- **Awaiting the Holy Spirit:** Jesus instructs His apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit. This shows the importance of patience and reliance on God's timing for empowerment.
- **Unity and maturity in faith:** Paul speaks about living in humility and maintaining peace. He highlights the role of diverse spiritual gifts in strengthening the community's faith and unity.
- **Mission of evangelization:** Jesus commands His disciples to preach the gospel globally. This illustrates the universal call to evangelize and spread the message of salvation.
- **Signs of faith:** The Gospel mentions miraculous signs that will accompany believers. This underscores the power of faith and God's active presence in the work of evangelization.
- **Jesus' ascension:** Jesus' ascension into heaven is central to all the readings. It signifies His divine authority and the fulfilment of His earthly mission.

These themes for the Feast of the Ascension Year B reflect the journey and responsibilities of Christians in their faith and interactions with the world.

First Holy Communion

Please keep the pupils from Summerhill NS in your prayers as they receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 18th. May it be a very special encounter with Christ.

Feast of Corpus Christi 2024 (A date for your diaries)

The Feast of Corpus Christi will be celebrated this year on the weekend of June 1st and 2nd.

The Routes are as follows.

Town (After 6.30pm Vigil Mass) From the Church of Ss. Peter & Paul through Pearse Street and Connaught Gardens to Connaught Street onto Battery Road down the Clonown Road and into Westlodge where Benediction will be held on the green.

Drum (After 10am Sunday Mass) From the Church to the Cemetery for Benediction.

Clonown (After 11.15am Sunday Mass) from the Church to the Cemetery for Benediction.

We encourage those living along the routes to tidy them up in preparation for these very special processions as we carry the Body of Christ through the streets and roads of our parish.

Parish Pastoral Council

The May meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Tuesday evening at 8pm in Forthill House.

Anniversaries of Ordination to Priesthood

The Parish Pastoral Council of Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish, Athlone cordially invite you join them for a **concelebrated Mass in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, Athlone on Thursday June 6th, 2024, at 7.30pm with Most Rev. Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin (to mark the 30th anniversary of the Ordination of our Parish Priest Fr. John Deignan and the 55th anniversary of the Ordination of our Curate Fr. Michael Hickey.)**

You are also invited to join us for a cup of tea in the Shamrock Lodge afterwards.

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 May 5th € 1,665.

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 May 4th - May 12th.

Sat. 11 th 8 p.m.	(JD)	Liam O'Neill, KIELTY.
Sun. 12 th 10 a.m.	(MH)	Anna and Charles O'Neill. Mount Florence.
Tues. 14 th 7 p.m.	(MH)	Kieran Brien, KIELTY.
Thurs. 16 th 7 p.m.	(MH)	No Intention.
Sat. 18 th 11 a.m.	(MH)	First Holy Communion – Summerhill N.S.
Sat. 18 th 8 p.m.	(IS)	Annie Hogg, Crannaghmore.
Sun. 19 th 10 a.m.	(JW)	Marfin and May O'Rourke, Rathpeak and Dec. Family Also, Thomsie Murray, Gorrynagowna.

Clonown Mass Intentions for May 5th - May 12th.

Sun 12 th 11.15 a.m	(JW)	John, Kate and Mike Gavin, Cappamore.
Sun 19 th 11.15 a.m	(JD)	Willie Shine, Currnaboll.

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of Theresa Wykes (née Molloy), Pinewood Close Elizabeth (Lil) Shine, Drum, Athlone. Also, Lieutenant Conal Sheeran, nephew to Lorna Duignan, Thomastown.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Elphin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Will take place from 30th August, to the 4th September, 2024 inclusive. Nominations for the Youth Section are being sought from parishes throughout the Diocese for young people to participate in the Pilgrimage. Nominees aged between 17 and 20 are welcome to participate. Nominees must be 17 years or over on the 20th August 2024. Youth must be nominated through their Priest/Chaplain. Forms are available from the local parish office. All nominees will be representing their parish and expected to participate fully in the Pilgrimage Itinerary. Full details are included on the Nomination Form. Closing date for receipt of completed nominations is the 24th May, 2024.

Féile na Sionainne Fundraising Concert

A night of Irish traditional music and singing in Athlone Little Theatre, Wednesday 15th May at 8pm. Tickets €15/€12 Concession. Email feilenasionainne@gmail.com. All proceeds go towards the festival which will occur during the Bank Holiday weekend in August (3rd & 4th).

Pray for Life Novena

The Pray for Life Novena is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Thursday 23rd May to the Feast of the Visitation on Friday 31st May. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland. Visit www.prayforlife.ie for the daily novena prayers and to sign up for daily reminders. This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Lough Derg One Day Retreats in May

These guided days of prayer and reflection will take place during May on Sun 12, Tue 14, Sat 18, Sat 25 and Mon 27. More details can be found at www.loughderg.ie €45 per person, booking essential. The Lough Derg traditional Three-Day Pilgrimage begins on Friday May 31st until August 15th.

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.
2333761	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2333762	Cleaner/Caretaker	Monksland Community Centre.
2333766	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Gentex Football Club.
2333757	Caretaker/Grounds-person	Monksland Community Centre.
2333768	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."

www.sspeterandpaulsparishathlone.com

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 11th May to Sunday 19th May 2024

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

Saturday	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed No Intention.
11th May	11.00am	First Holy Communion - Cloonakilla N.S.
	6.30pm Vigil	(JW) Also Live Streamed Jimmy Blackweir (Month's Mind). Patrick Doolan (Month's Mind). Kieran Molloy. Sidney Salmon.
Sunday	9.00am	(IS) Also Live Streamed
12th May	12.00pm	People of the Parish (JD) Also Live Streamed Thomas & Elizabeth Studdert. Frank, Maureen & Mary Sherlock. Edward Nieradka & Wieskawa Moskwa.
Monday	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed
13th May	9.30am	(JW) Also Live Streamed
Tuesday	9.30am	No Intention.
14th May	9.30am	(JD) Also Live Streamed
Wednesday	9.30am	Rose Morgan. Catherine & William Heavey.
15th May	6.00pm	(JW) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday	9.30am	(JD) Also Live Streamed
16th May	9.30am	Private Intention.
Friday	9.30am	(IS) Also Live Streamed
17th May	7.30pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Helen Bannon (Month's Mind). Matt & Greta Darcy. Christine Lennon. Enda Fallon.
Saturday	9.30am	(IS) Also Live Streamed Jackie, Maureen, Frank Martina & Sean Dowling. Dec. members of the Cunningham Family
18th May	6.30pm Vigil	(JD) Also Live Streamed Tony Whyte (Months Mind)
Sunday	9.00am	(MH) Also Live Streamed
19th May	12.00pm	People of the Parish (IS) Also Live Streamed Jimmy Lennon (St. Coman's Park), Maura Meehan Mary, Joseph & Noel O'Connor, Frances & Andy McCarthy & Dec. members of the Blackweir & O'Connor Families.

A Prayer on Ascension Day

O God of earth and sky, as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us up to heaven, so today we recall his departing from us at Jerusalem to be in all places. Though he is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in him by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.

Bless us with your Love O God. Bless us with your Love. Amen.



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

12th May 2024 Ascension of the Lord

The Feast of the
Ascension
reminds us that
Jesus will return.



Parish Contact Details

V. Rev John Deignan P.P. 10 Ashford, Monksland.
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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

Fr. Michael Hickey CSSp (Drum / Clonown Areas) 090 - 64 37125
Drum area Office: Catherine Higgins Secretary 090 - 64 37125
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

Weekly Newsletter