



Parish of Ss. Peter and Paul, Athlone – Change in Clergy Summer 2024

Dear Parishioners of Ss Peter and Paul's Parish

I am writing to let you know that I have made some changes in clergy assignments in the Diocese of Elphin, which will affect your parish, as well as a number of others. I am conscious that change is challenging, both for the faithful and for the priests, but it is sometimes necessary and often brings its own blessings.

- Fr. Innocent Sunu has been transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Sligo and will move at the end of July.
- Fr. Innocent will be replaced by Fr. Christopher Edebianga, coming from the Parish of Athleague and Fuerty.
- Fr. Michael Hickey (CC in Drum) will be returning to his Congregation, the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Missionaries) at the end of August.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Michael who has served generously in the parish for seven years, and well beyond the normal age of retirement. Thanks also to Fr. Innocent who has ministered in the parish for two years.

We were blessed to have one priest more than expected in the Diocese last year and this resulted in the appointment of Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus to Athlone as an additional member of the team. Fr. Wenjeslaus will be remaining in the parish, so the team will be at normal strength. These changes will obviously mean that Fr. John Deignan, as Parish Priest, will need to review the responsibilities of the various members of the team in the coming months.

I know that the three Churches communities in Athlone are blessed with the active engagement of many lay people in various kinds of ministry and service. It is the mission of the priests to serve the community in developing and using those gifts. I am equally confident that you, the lay faithful, will continue to support the mission of the priests as you have done in the past.

Yours Sincerely

+Kevin Doran
Bishop of Elphin