



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

Weekly Newsletter

November 30th 2025 / First Sunday of Advent

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation



Advent: A time of waiting

Parish Contact Details

V. Rev John Deignan P.P. 090 - 6490874
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Ss. Peter & Paul's Office: Tues - Fri 9.30am - 2pm
Secretary: Martina Mc Sweeney, 090 - 6492171
Forthill House. parishoffice@athloneparish.ie
Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus C.C. 090 - 6437125
St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum frjoseph@athloneparish.ie
(Drum / Clonown Areas)
Drum Office: Monday - Wednesday 9am to 1pm
Secretary: Catherine Higgins, St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum
090 - 6437125
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Deacon Tony Larkin:
Chaplain Colaiste Chairáin 085 739 2473
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Parish Organist:
PJ Stacey 087 248 6206

Folk Group:
Frank Conroy 086 860 5333

Safe guarding 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)

Christine Kenny & Sandra Daly 090 6494 150
Baptism, Confirmation & Marriage Certificates
are issued from the Sacristy (090 6494 150)
PRIEST ON CALL 0858705840

Drum Mass Intentions for November 29th - December 7th.

Sat. 29th - 8 pm (JW) Jodie Harney, Crannaghmore.
Sun. 30th - 10 am (JD) Teresa and Patrick Murray, Culfatha & deceased family members.
Tues. 2nd- 7 pm (JW) No Intention.
Thurs. 4th - 7 pm (JW) P.J., Mary & Lar Watson, Taduff. Kathleen & Tommy McManus, Curraghaleen.
Sat. 6th - 8 pm (JD) Eamon, Ned & Annie Griffin, Ardkeenan.
Sun. 7th - 10 am (JW) Thomas Hynes, Drum Road.

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year, a sacred four-week period dedicated to preparation and hopeful anticipation. More than just a countdown to Christmas, Advent celebrates the historical birth of Christ in Bethlehem, and prepares our hearts for his final return.

It is a time of waiting—symbolized by the lighting of the wreath candles—that calls us to slow down, cultivate hope, and create spiritual room in our lives for the quiet arrival of God's light into the world.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th November to Sunday 7th December 2025

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

29th Nov. 6.30pm Vigil (ALL) Annual Memorial Mass for the Deceased.
(DO) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish
(DO) Kathleen Byrne, Patricia Gibson, John & Kitty Keena, Cornafulla & deceased members of the Kenna family Cornafulla & Listillure.
Monday 9.30am 1st December
(JD) Also Live Streamed Mass, Novena & Benediction
Patrick & Rose Kirby, Patrick & Veronica O'Hanlon.
Tuesday 9.30am 2nd December
(JW) Also Live Streamed
Wednesday 9.30am 3rd December
No Intention.
(JD) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 9.30am 4th December
(DO) Also Live Streamed
Catherine Lyons, Patrick & Mary Maughan.
Friday 9.30am
(JW) Also Live Streamed
Sean & Mai Kavanagh, John & Agnes Masterson.
5th December 7.30pm
(JD) Martina Dowd - 1st Anniversary.
Willie & Rose Milton, Iona Park, Margaret, Joseph, George, Tom & Frank Norton, Mary Vaughan, Maureen & Sean Brennan, Denis & Ann Cleary, Sean, Maureen & Michael Brennan.
Saturday 9.30am
(DO) Also Live Streamed
Bill & Peggy Browne-Tone, Tony & Ambrose Browne.
6th Dec. 6.30pm Vigil
(JW) Audrey O'Brien - Month's Mind.
Joe Hussey - Month's Mind, Paudge & Mary Dully & deceased members of the Glavey & Dully families.
Sunday 9.00am 7th December
(DO) Also Live Streamed People of the Parish
(JW) Also Live Streamed
Jean Smith, The Duggan family, Galway.

Clonown Mass Intentions for November 30th - December 7th.

OUR LADY
OF THE
WAYSIDE

Sunday 30th 11.15am (JW) Patricia Gavin, Carricknaughton - Month's Mind.
Jack & Catherine Lombard, Cork.
Friday 5th 8pm (JW) Stephen, Annie, Patrick, John, Stephen Jr. and Michéal Fallon.
Sunday 7th 11.15am (JD) Sean Shine, Buggane.

Rosary in the cemetery immediately after mass on Sunday 30th Nov.
-weather permitting.

Celebrating Family

The 1st Sunday of Advent starts a new season of hope and preparation.

Advent is a time for watching, waiting, and preparing for Christ. The readings call us to stay alert, live with purpose, and seek peace.

- **Staying Awake for Christ:** Advent reminds us to stay watchful and ready. Jesus urges us to be aware and prepared, not caught off guard by his coming.
- **Hope and Anticipation:** Advent brings a season of hope for what is to come. This hope pushes us to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ.
- **Living in the Light:** Paul's letter encourages us to live in the light and leave behind actions that keep us in darkness. Advent is a time to step forward with kindness, honesty, and peace.
- **Embracing Peace:** Isaiah's vision of nations gathering in peace shows God's hope for a world united. We are reminded to be peace-makers, especially as we prepare for Christ's coming.
- **Turning from Distractions:** The Gospel warns of the dangers of letting daily life distract us from Christ's arrival. Advent is a call to put aside what pulls us from God and make room for Him.
- **Beginning Again with Faith:** Advent opens a new church year and invites us to refresh our faith. We are called to enter the season with hearts open to grow closer to God.

**The 1st Sunday of Advent invites us to slow down and focus on God.
As Advent begins, we are called to prepare, stay alert, and live with hope.**

Samaritan Christmas Concert

The 35th Annual Samaritan Christmas Concert takes place on Thursday 11th Dec. in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church, Athlone, at 8pm, featuring the Army Band of the 2nd Brigade, Tenor Paul Linehan, Athlone A Cappella Choir, Athlone Pipe Band & Compere Joe McCarrick. Tickets €20. Mulligan's Roscommon Road, Whyte's Pharmacy, Cunningham's Pharmacies & Athlone Print.

The Samaritans are available 24hrs on freecall 116 123 for anyone who is lonely, troubled or just needs to talk to someone in confidence.

Baptism of Adults

Are you an adult considering taking the next step in your faith journey through the Sacrament of Baptism? Our parish is now prayerfully preparing for the 2026 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme, a supportive and enriching process designed to welcome new members into the Catholic Church. This journey of formation, prayer, and community will begin in the new year, and we warmly invite any adults seeking Baptism - or those simply curious to learn more - to formally apply.

To express your interest and ensure your place in this transformative programme, please contact the parish office to register your details. Or scan the QR CODE on this message. We look forward to walking with you as you answer this call to faith.



A Call to Sacred Service: Ministers of Holy Communion

We invite members of our Parish community who feel called to deepen their dedication to the Church by becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Minister). This is a vital and deeply special ministry. As a Eucharistic Minister, you will join our dedicated existing team to assist in distributing the Body of Christ to the faithful during Mass. Furthermore, this calling extends beyond the sanctuary. Ministers have the profound opportunity to bring Holy Communion to our homebound, elderly, or sick parishioners, ensuring the comfort and grace of the Sacrament reaches all members of our community.

If you discern a call to commit to this rewarding ministry, please register your interest.

There are two easy methods for signing up:

- **Digital Sign-Up:** Scan the dedicated QR Code located to the right of this notice.
- **Parish Office:** Contact the Parish Office directly during regular business hours.

*All new applicants will participate in a **mandatory, short training and formation course**. This preparation ensures that all ministers are properly instructed in the reverence and procedure required for distributing the Eucharist.*

We look forward to welcoming you to this truly fulfilling and special ministry.



Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of

Tommy Curley, formerly St. Joseph's Villas.

John (The Count) Mc Cormack, Hallsbridge.

Mary - Ann O'Connor (née Redmond), Ankers Bower.

Jimmy Shine, Drumlosh.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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
2419169	Caretaker/Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.
2419170	Caretaker/Grounds-person Clonown Community Project.
2419161	Caretaker/Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.
2419160	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.
2414203	Cleaner/Caretaker St. Peter's Church.
2420362	Caretaker/Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2420363	Caretaker/Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.

Please note that you must be eligible for Community Employment in order to apply for the above positions. A person that is between the ages of **50 - 61** and signing for credits for more than one year may also be eligible to participate on a CE programme. For more information please contact the above 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.

✦ TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET ✦

Sunday 30th November – 1pm to 5pm Connaught Gardens, Athlone. Start your Christmas shopping here! A lovely way to start the Christmas season — and support your own Community while you're at it.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual fund raising collection for the charitable works of society in Athlone will take place on the week commencing 1st December. Donations will be much appreciated by the society and can be left in St. P&P church and public places ie. Shops etc.

✦ Liturgical Centre – Christmas Opening ✦

We will be open on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, 7th Dec. You are warmly invited to come & browse our beautiful Christmas gifts & cards for your special greetings. Let's keep Christ at the heart of Christas! Contact: 09064 92278.

Have you thought about fostering?

Change a child's life by becoming a Tusla Foster Carer. Talk to Tusla Fostering today by freephone **1800 226 771** or visit www.fostering.ie to learn more.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly

Offertory Collection

Sunday November 23rd € 1,800.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions and generosity.

If you wish to set up a weekly / monthly standing order for your contribution

(Please ensure you include your envelope number in the narrative section)

Ss Peter & Pauls Church	IBAN IE68 AIBK 9322 6436 857014 BIC AIBKIE2D
St. Brigid's Church	IBAN IE92 AIBK 9322 6411 809048 BIC AIBKIE2D
Clonown Church	IBAN IE46 AIBK 9322 6406 860063 BIC AIBKIE2D
Support of the Priests	IBAN IE69 AIBK 9322 6436 857287 BIC AIBKIE2D