



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

Weekly Newsletter

December 21st 2025 / Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation



Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. *Matthew 1:20*

Parish Contact Details

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Fr. Simon Peter Akpoja 090 - 6492171
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Ss. Peter & Paul's Office: Tues - Fri 9.30am - 1pm
Secretary: Martina Mc Sweeney, 090 - 6492171
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Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus C.C. 090 - 6437125
St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum frjoseph@athloneparish.ie
(Drum / Clonown Areas)
Drum Office: Mon - Wed 9am to 1pm
Secretary: Catherine Higgins, St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum
090 - 6437125
drumoffice@athloneparish.ie

Deacon Tony Larkin:
Chaplain Colaiste Chairáin 085 739 2473
deacontony@athloneparish.ie

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 December 20th - December 28th.



Sat. 20th - 8 pm (SP) Sean (Geezer) Duignan & his parents
John & Bridget, Clonellán.
Tom Duignan.

Sun. 21st - 10 am (JW) Tom and Mary Hynes, Johnstown.
Jim & Elizabeth Hynes and deceased
family members.

Tues. 23rd - 7 pm (JW) No Intention

Wed. 24th - 9 pm (JW) Christmas Eve

Thurs. 25th - 10 am (JW) Christmas Day

Sat. 27th - 8 pm (SP) P.J. Watson, Rockfield
- Month's Mind.

Sun. 28th - 10 am (JW) P.J. & Eileen McEvilly, Johnstown and
their son John.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th December to Sunday 28th December 2025

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

Saturday	9.30am	(DO) Also Live Streamed
20th Dec.		(JD) Also Live Streamed
	6.30pm Vigil	Maureen Ryan - Month's Mind
		Bernie Geraghty - Month's Mind
		Thomas Mulligan late of Fry Place
		- Month's Mind.
		Anne Hamilton.
Sunday	9.00am	(DO) Also Live Streamed
21st December		People of the Parish
	12.00pm	(SP) Mary (Maisie) & Pat Mc Guire.
		Gertie & Johnny Farrell.
		Breda Grenham.
		Joe Browne.
		Ultan & Marie Shanahan.
Monday	9.30am	(SP) Also Live Streamed
22nd December		Luke Duignan & son Tom.
Tuesday	9.30am	(DO) Also Live Streamed
23rd December		No Intention.
Wednesday	9.30am	(JD) Christmas Eve
24th Dec.		Jimmy, Josie, Betty
		& Breda Cunningham.
	6.00pm	(ALL) Children's Mass
	9.00pm	(JD & DO) Christmas Vigil
Thursday	9.00am	(SP) Also Live Streamed
25th December	10.30am	(DO) Christmas Day
	12.00pm	(JD) Tom & Tereas Flynn.
		Michael & Paul Coyle.
Friday	12.00pm	(SP) St. Stephen's Day
26th December		Nuala Gordon.
		Madge & Tom Flanagan.
		Billy Evans. Declan Dolan.
		Bridie & Freddie Warby and deceased
		family members.
Saturday	12.00pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed
27th Dec.		Paddy & Nellie Heavey.
		Martin & Christine Egan.
		Ambrose Browne.
		Ned & Mai Halligan.
	6.30pm Vigil	(JW) Also Live Streamed
		Annette Duffy - 1st Anniversary.
		Yvonne Thompson - 1st Anniversary.
		Thomas, Mary & Catriona Egan.
Sunday	9.00am	(DO) Also Live Streamed
28th December		People of the Parish
	12.00pm	(SP) Also Live Streamed
		Bridie Corcoran.
		Michael Goode.

Clonown Mass Intentions for December 21st - December 28th.

Sunday 21st - 11.15am (JD) No Intention.
Wednesday 24th - 9 pm (SP) Christmas Eve
Thursday 25th - 11.15am (SP) Christmas Day
Sunday 28th - 11.15am (JW) John Dunning, The Park.
Delia & Michael.

Christmas Mass times in Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish

Christmas Eve

Confessions in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church from	10am to 2pm
Children's Christmas Mass Ss. Peter & Paul's Church at	6pm
Christmas Vigil Masses in town, Drum & Clonown at	9pm

Christmas Day

Ss. Peter and Paul's Church	9am, 10.30am & 12 Noon
St. Brigid's Church Drum	10am
Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown	11.15am

Daily Mass

26th, 27th Morning Mass at	12 noon in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church
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New Years Eve

Mass to welcome 2026, Ss. Peter & Paul's Church at	11.45pm
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New Years Day

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Mass	12 noon
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**The 4th Sunday of Advent continues a time of waiting and hope.
The readings show God's promise, Jesus' coming, and our call to trust.**

- **God's Promise:** God promises a sign through Isaiah, showing He is with His people. Jesus' birth is the fulfilment of that promise.
- **Faith and Trust:** Ahaz struggles to trust God, but Joseph listens and obeys. Faith means believing even when we do not fully understand.
- **Jesus as Emmanuel:** The name Emmanuel means "God is with us." Jesus comes to be close to His people and bring them hope.
- **Obedience to God:** Joseph follows God's message despite fear and uncertainty. Trusting God often requires action, even when it is hard.
- **God's Plan for Salvation:** Paul reminds the Romans that Jesus' coming is part of God's plan. Salvation is a gift meant for all people.
- **Hope in Waiting:** Advent is a time of waiting for Jesus. The readings remind us that God's plan unfolds in His time.

Advent invites people to prepare for Jesus with faith and hope. The 4th Sunday of Advent reminds us that God keeps His promises.

Calendars & Christmas Envelope

Christmas Cards with details of Christmas Masses & Confessions, 2026 Calendars and the envelope for the Christmas collection will be distributed to you homes in the coming days. The Christmas Collection is the first of 4 collections each year to support the 3 priests of the parish, Fr. John, Fr. Joseph & Fr. Simon Peter. In Elphin Diocese each parish must support the priests working there through these special collections. The Priests of the parish do not at any time receive their stipend from the normal Sunday collection. The Priests do not receive any assistance from the parish for the purchase or running of their cars or mobile telephones.

We thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Fr. John, Fr. Joseph & Fr. Simon Peter.

✠ Liturgical Centre – Christmas Opening ✠

We will be open on Sunday 21st December. You are warmly invited to come & browse our beautiful Christmas gifts & cards for your special greetings. Let's keep Christ at the heart of Christmas! Contact: 09064 92278. (The Chapel of Adoration & Liturgical Centre will be closed on Christmas Eve at 4pm and will reopen on 2nd January 2026).

Do give some thought of becoming a committed Adorer in the Chapel of Adoration for 2026!

Clonown N.S., Now Enrolling

Open Evening, Thursday 22nd January from 6.30-7.30pm
Private visits can also be arranged.

Please contact clownns@gmail.com or **0906400126**.

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.
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.

A date for your diary!

Medjugorje 2026 June 17th - June 24th

Cost is €855 per person sharing.

But there is an early booking discount of €50 per person for all deposits of €200 received before 30th January '26.

Travel Insurance is €35 extra.

Spiritual director Rev. Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus.

If you are interested,

please contact Mary **087 2936933** for more information.

The Samaritans confidential support

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, 24 / 7 It's good to talk!

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly

Offertory Collection

Sunday December 14th € 1,705.

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