



**Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood
 and Religious Life**

Parish Contact Details

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Ss. Peter & Paul's Office: **Tues - Fri 9.30am - 1pm**
 Secretary: Martina Mc Sweeney, 090 - 6492171
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 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
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Deacon Tony Larkin: 085 739 2473
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Folk Group:
 Frank Conroy 086 860 5333
Safe guarding Rep:
 Lisa Malone 087 144 0833
safeguarding@athloneparish.ie
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
 25th April - 3rd May**



Saturday - 8 pm (JW) Tony Whyte, Thomastown.
25th April
Sunday - 10 am (SP) Pakie, Teresa, Michael and
26th April Christopher Harney, Clonrulla.
Tuesday - 7 pm (JW) Special Intention.
28th April
Thursday - 7 pm (JW) Jane Moore, Meehambee.
30th April
Saturday - 8 pm (SP) Bridget Kelly, Curraghaleen.
2nd May
Sunday - 10 am (JD) Donal and Lil Shine, Drum Road.
26th April

**Please continue to pray for Peace
 and also for our parishioners serving as
 peacekeepers in South Lebanon**

**SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions
 Saturday 25th to Sunday 3rd May 2026**

ALL MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED on www.churchservices.tv/athlone
Saturday 25th April 9.30 am (DO) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention
6.30 pm Vigil (SP) Also Live Streamed
 Frank Sumner - **1st Anniversary.**
 Lorraine Degg (McLoughlin).
Sunday 26th April 9.00 am (DO) People of the Parish
12.00 pm (JD) Also Live Streamed
 Michael & Bride Garrick.
 Maryanne Duignan & her son Tom.
 Kathleen Lynch, Baylough.
 Katie Connaire.
 Tim Connolly.
Monday 27th April 9.30 am (JD) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
Tuesday 28th April 9.30 am (JD) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
Wednesday 29th April 9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
6.00 pm (JD) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 30th April 9.30 am (DO) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
Friday 1st May 9.30 am (DO) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
7.30 pm (SP) Also Live Streamed
 Peter & May Fallon & her brother
 Michael Hynes.
 Tommy & Kathleen Kenny.
 James Heavey.
 John, Vera & PJ Coleman.
Saturday 2nd May 9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed
 James (Jim) Malone - **Month's Mind.**
6.30 pm Vigil (JW) Also Live Streamed
 No Intention.
Sunday 3rd May 9.00 am (DO) People of the Parish
12.00 pm (SP) Also Live Streamed
 Michael Cahill - **1st Anniversary.**
 Tom Shaw.
 Terry Byrne.
 John & Mary Bridget Hurley.

**Clonown Mass Intentions for
 26th April - 3rd May**



Sunday - 11.15am (JD) Tommy and Frank Ward,
26th April Currnaboll.
Friday - 8pm (JW) Lena, Peter, Sean & Kathlee
1st May Dunning, Newtown North.
Sunday - 11.15am (JW) John, Kate and Mike Gavin,
3rd May Cappamore.

In today's Gospel, Jesus identifies himself as the "Gate for the sheep."

This is a profound image of both protection and access. In the ancient Near East, a shepherd would often sleep in the opening of the sheepfold, literally becoming the door—the physical barrier between his flock and the dangers of the night. As we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to pause and reflect on the nature of our relationship with the Risen Lord.

We live in a world saturated with noise. We are bombarded by voices - the voices of social media, the pressures of career, the anxieties of the future, and the loud, often demanding echoes of our own insecurities. These voices frequently promise us fulfilment, but they often leave us feeling scattered and restless.

Jesus tells us, "The sheep follow him, because they recognise his voice."

Recognition is not an intellectual exercise; it is an intimacy born of time spent in presence. We learn the voice of the Good Shepherd not by reading about him, but by sitting with him in the silence of prayer. We learn his voice by looking for his movements in the people we encounter, in the breaking of the bread, and in the quiet promptings of our conscience.

The Gospel warns us that a stranger's voice leads only to division and theft—the theft of our peace, our joy, and our sense of purpose.

But Jesus offers something drastically different: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

This "abundant life" is not always a life of material ease or constant sunshine. It is a life of deep, unshakable belonging. It is the realisation that no matter how dark the valley becomes, we are never truly lost, because we are known by Name.

This week, let us practice the art of listening. In the midst of your daily commute, your work, or your family life, take a moment to stop.

Ask yourself: **Whose voice am I following today? Is it a voice that steals my peace, or is it the voice of the Shepherd leading me to green pastures?**

The Gate is open. The Shepherd is calling. And you - yes, you - are known by name.

Listen closely, and follow him into the light of his abundant life.

DIOCESES OF ACHONY AND ELPHIN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – ASSISTED PILGRIM SECTION

The Dioceses of Achony and Elphin Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from **28th August, 2026 to the 2nd September, 2026** inclusive, under the leadership of Bishop Kevin Doran. Pilgrimage Highlights includes Mass at the Grotto, Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, Anointing of the Sick, Water Ceremony. Flights ex Knock Airport.

- The Pilgrimage includes **an Assisted Pilgrim Section**.
- Those who travel as part of the Assisted Pilgrim Section will stay in **Accueil Notre Dame**, which is situated near the Grotto and Sanctuary area. They will be cared for by the Diocesan Pilgrimage Care Team whilst in Lourdes.
- Application forms for the Assisted Pilgrim Section and full details are available from Very Rev. Ray Milton, P.P., Pilgrimage Director, St. John's, Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon. (Telephone – 090 6661115).
- Closing date for receipt of completed Application Forms is 11th June 2026.

All other enquiries can be directed to Joe Walsh Tours (JWT) at 016852244 or email info@joewalshstours.ie

Youth Section

The Parish would like to send two young people (17-20 y/o) as part of the youth pilgrimage. This is a great experience to explore Lourdes with young people from around our Diocese. Those who have gone in previous years have really enjoyed the experience. **INTERESTED?** Email your details to frjohn@athloneparish.ie

RSA's 'Check it Fits' Service

The Check it Fits service is quick, it's easy, it's free. On the day our experts will advise on how to fix any problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have. Our experts aim to put parent's, grand - parent's and guardian's minds at ease that their child's car seat is safely and securely fitted in their car.

Location: Aldi, Athlone – Friday 1st May.

ALONE

We're looking for Volunteers in your area, join us and let's combat loneliness together. It feels amazing to make someone feel amazing! To sign up please visit alone.ie/volunteers or call **0818 222 024**

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers, but when detected early, it is highly treatable. You can reduce your risk of bowel cancer by eating healthy (high fibre, limit processed meat/red meat), limiting alcohol, maintain a healthy weight, being physically active, and getting help to quit smoking. Bowel screening is available to everyone aged 57-71 years. See www.hse.ie/bowelscreen

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!

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
2433681	Caretaker/Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.
2433682	Caretaker/Grounds-person Clonown Community Project.
2433680	Caretaker/Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.
2437141	Caretaker/Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2437869	Caretaker/Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.
2437140	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.
2429882	Receptionist/Administrator St. Peter's Project Office.
2437644	Caretaker/Grounds-person Athlone Boat Club.

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.

**Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly
Offertory Collection**

Sunday April 19th € 1,990.

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