



The Catholic Day for Life in Ireland for 2026 is celebrated today, June 21. The joint message by the Bishops' Conference centres on the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb," focusing on the humanity of the unborn and offering compassion for parents who have lost children.



We pray for respect for life at ALL stages of life.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th June to Sunday 28th June 2026

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

Saturday 20th June	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Tom & Delia O'Brien.
	6 .30 pm	Vigil (SP) Also Live Streamed Jackie Quain - Month's Mind. Patrick Henry - 1st Anniversary. The Muldoon & Mc Enteer families & deceased family members.
Sunday 21st June	9.00 am	(SP) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Frank Greene. Sean Mc Cann. Martina Kildea. John Casey
Monday 22nd June	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Followed by Novena & Benediction No Intention Booked
Tuesday 23rd June	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked
Wednesday 24th June	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked
	6.00 pm	(SP) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 25th June	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Eithne Higgins RIP (100th birthday)
Friday 26th June	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed George Chittattukara
	7.30 pm	(JW) Also Live Streamed Delia Kilkenny (Months Mind) Jimmy, Kathleen, Charlie & Sinead Gallagher & Betty Gallacher Paddy and Mary Grenham Paddy and Annie Killian
Saturday 27th June	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Ted & Molly Conroy
	6 .30 pm	Vigil (JD) Also Live Streamed Josie Quigley (1st Anniv) Linda Begley
Sunday 28th June	9.00 am	(JD) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(JW) Also Live Streamed Ray Fallon, Christy Barry, Larry & Martina Hayes and Laurna Carty. Brendan, Stafford and Justin Golden

Parish Contact Details

V. Rev John Deignan P.P. 090 - 6490874
10 Ashford, Monksland. frjohn@athloneparish.ie

Fr. Simon Peter Akpoja 090 - 6492171
Forthill House. frsimonpeter@athloneparish.ie

Ss. Peter & Paul's Office: **Tues - Fri 9.30am - 1pm**
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: **Mon - Wed 9am to 1pm**
Secretary: Catherine Higgins, St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum
090 - 6437125
drumoffice@athloneparish.ie

Deacon Tony Larkin: 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
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 20th June - 28th June



Saturday - 8 pm (JD) Kate Griffin, Rooskey and deceased family members.
20th June

Sunday - 10 am (JD) Mary & James Dooley, Sligo/Athlone & Dooley & O'Dwyer families.
21st June

Tuesday - 7 pm (SP) Johnny and Kathleen Naughton, Clonellan. & Archie Naughton and dec. family members.
23rd June

Thursday - 7 pm (JW) John Higgins, Crannaghmore.
25th June

Saturday - 8 pm (JW) Patrick and Kathleen Duffy, Drumlosh.
27th June

Sunday - 10 am (SP) Francis and Mary Ann Henry, Clonellan. and their parents James and Mary
28th June

Church gate collection in aid of the Assisted Pilgrim Fund to Lourdes on 20th & 21st June in Drum Church.

Clonown Mass Intentions for 21st June - 28th June



Sunday - 11.15am (SP) Annie O'Boyle formerly of St. Comans Park.
21st June

Sunday - 11.15am (SP) Tim, Laurence, Mary and Paddy Geoghegan, The Pidgeon Field. Also, deceased family members.
28th June

Cemetery Mass on Sunday 5th July at 11.15 a.m.

Church gate collection for St. Hildas Services
on 27th / 28th June

Cemetery Sunday in Clonown will take place on 5th July @ 11.15am with mass in the Cemetery.

Finding Courage in the Storm: A Reflection for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this week's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a command that is as challenging today as it was two thousand years ago: **"Do not be afraid."**

- It is a simple directive, but one that often feels impossible in the face of our daily lives. We live in a world that thrives on anxiety—fear of what others think, fear of the future, and fear of standing up for what is true.
- In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah gives us a raw, honest look at the cost of discipleship. He feels the "whispering" and "denunciations" of those around him. He is mocked and isolated because he dared to speak the truth of God. Yet, in the midst of his distress, he finds his footing: *"But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion."* Jeremiah reminds us that being a person of faith does not grant us immunity from life's storms. Rather, it grants us a Presence that is stronger than any storm.
- St. Paul, writing to the Romans, deepens this perspective. He reminds us that while sin and death entered the world through one man, the grace of God and the gift of Jesus Christ have overflowed for the many. Our faith is not built on our own ability to be brave; it is built on the reality that Christ has already won the victory.
- When Jesus tells us not to be afraid of those who can harm the body but not the soul, He is inviting us to a radical reordering of our priorities. He is calling us to fear nothing but the loss of our intimacy with God.

This week, as we go about our work, our school, and our family duties, let us cultivate this **"holy courage."** When you feel the pressure to conform, to remain silent when you should speak, or to worry about the opinions of others, remember the words of our Lord: **"You are worth more than many sparrows."**

You are known, you are loved, and you are held by the "mighty champion" who walked the path of the Cross before you.

May you feel the peace of Christ in your hearts this week, and may that peace give you the courage to live as a light in the world.

Parish Pastoral Council Update: June 2024

On Tuesday, June 9th, the Parish Pastoral Council gathered at Forthill House to reflect on our recent milestones and look forward to the busy summer season ahead. We are pleased to share the following highlights with our parish community.

Feast of Corpus Christi We were heartened by the wonderful turnout at this year's Corpus Christi processions. It was a beautiful expression of faith, made all the more special by the families who prepared altars at their homes and the dedication of those who readied our stations for Benediction. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our First Holy Communion children, whose participation brought such joy and innocence to the occasion.

Exploring Our Faith Programme is now open for enrolment. If you are looking to deepen your understanding of the faith or simply have questions you've been meaning to ask, this is a wonderful opportunity to join the conversation. You can find the full list of discussion topics on our website and social media pages. Please reach out to register your interest!



Bringing the Altar to the Community We are currently exploring the possibility of hosting some outdoor "Street or Area Masses" throughout the summer. The vision is simple: a community gathering in an open space, a housing estate, or a rural setting, to pray together and offer a blessing for our local areas. Whether or not you choose to organize a social event around the Mass is entirely up to your community; the primary goal is simply to gather as neighbors in prayer. If your area would like to host one, please contact your local priest to discuss the details.

Cloonakilla Graveyard

We are considering forming a community committee to explore the possibility of tidying up the small graveyard in Cloonakilla, with the aim of making it accessible to visitors and enabling an annual Mass to be celebrated there. More as this evolves.

Dates for the Diary

- **Cemetery Masses:** We look forward to gathering to remember our loved ones at our annual Cemetery Masses. Please join us in **Drum on June 14th at 3:00 pm** and in **Clonown on July 5th at 11:15 am**.
- **11th Annual Mass of the Angels:** This special Mass will take place on **Wednesday, August 19th**. We invite members of the community to be involved in the liturgy. If you would like to volunteer to read, offer a prayer or reflection, or present the gifts, please get in touch with Fr. John.

Looking Ahead We are thrilled to announce that four of our young parishioners will be traveling on the upcoming Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We keep them in our prayers as they embark on this meaningful journey.

Finally, with the health of our community in mind, we are planning a **Mental Health Awareness Night** in September. We believe that supporting one another's wellbeing is a vital part of our parish life. Keep an eye on our bulletins and social media for full details as they become available.

As we move through the summer, may we continue to support one another in faith and friendship.

Happy Fathers Day

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
2452057	Caretaker/Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.
2452056	Caretaker/Grounds-person Clonown Community Project.
2452055	Caretaker/Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.
2452631	Caretaker/Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2452633	Caretaker/Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.
2452058	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.
2442176	Cleaner/Caretaker Monksland Community Centre.
2444280	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.

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of Jack (John) Kildea, Athlone/Dublin. Brother of Denny Kildea, Newtown, Drum, & Mark (Louis) Skeffington Cherryfield House, Battery Heights, Athlone, Westmeath

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Retreats at Knock Shrine

Knock Shrine is now offering the opportunity for personal, self-directed retreat stays in the simple and peaceful surroundings of the Retreat Village. email retreatvillage@knockshrine.ie

Athlone Tidy Towns Garden/Estate

Wildflower and Biodiversity Competition 2026. Application forms are available from Dooleys flower shop Magazine Road. Last day for completed entries June 30th.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly

Offertory Collection

Sunday June 14th € 1,485

**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