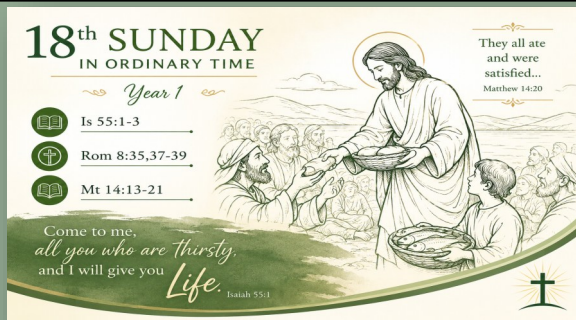




Parish Contact Details

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
Chaplain Colaiste Chairáin deacontony@athloneparish.ie
Parish Organist: PJ Stacey 087 248 6206
Folk Group: Frank Conroy 086 860 5333
Safe guarding Rep: Lisa Malone 089 4724744
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 1st August - 9th August

Sat. 1st Aug-8 p.m. (SP) Michael, Pat & John Fallon, Dugra and deceased family.
Sun. 2nd - 10 a.m. (SP) Peter & Mary Shine, Taylorstown and deceased family.
Tues. 4th - 7 p.m. (JD) Trisha Moore, Meehambee & deceased family members.
Thurs. 6th - 7 p.m. (SP) Mary Nee(formerly McEvelly, Johnstown) who died in the USA.
Sat. 8th -8 p.m. (JW) Mary Devine, Meehambee.
Sun. 9th - 10 a.m. (JW) Peter & Maureen Killian, Crancam & deceased family members.

· 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 the parish office.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 1st August to Sunday 9th August 2026

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

Saturday 1st Aug.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Frank Shaw, daughter Nicola & grand daughter Donna Mc Guire.
	6 .30 pm	Vigil (JD) Also Live Streamed Roseanna Reid - 1st Anniversary.
Sunday 2nd Aug.	9.00 am	(JD) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(SP) Also Live Streamed Patrick Kerrigan - Month's Mind & his sister Ann Doran. William & Annie Shine.
Monday 3rd Aug.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Followed by Novena & Benediction Anna, Eugene Snr. & Jnr. Leonard.
Tuesday 4th Aug.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Kathleen & Paddy Malone & dec. family.
Wednesday 5th Aug.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	6.00 pm	(JD) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 6th Aug.	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
Friday 7th Aug.	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	7.30 pm	(SP) Also Live Streamed David Flynn. Tommy Marsh & Mary Marsh.
Saturday 8th Aug.	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	6 .30 pm	Vigil (SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
Sunday 9th Aug.	9.00 am	(JD) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Louis Mc Nally. Molly Fennelly.

Fr. Simon Peter's order is making a special collection for the St. Paul's Missionary Society.
Envelopes will be located at the back of the church.
Envelopes can be returned through the basket at Mass.

Clonown Mass Intentions for 2nd August - 9th August

OUR LADY
OF THE
WAYSIDE

Aug. 2nd 11.15 a.m. (JD) No Intention.
Aug. 7th 7 p.m. (JW) First Friday.
Aug. 9th 11.15 a.m. (SP) John & Mary Gavin, Grahia House, Cappamore & deceased family members.

Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to our Parish and would like to register as a parishioner. Please go to the following webpage to register. Thank you. www.athloneparish.ie (the link is on the right on the home page)



The Banquet of the Deserted Place

"He said to them, 'Give them some food yourselves.'" — Matthew 14:16

Have you ever noticed how often God does His best work in desolate places?

- In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus seeks solitude after hearing of the tragic death of John the Baptist. He withdraws to a deserted place by boat. But the crowds follow Him on foot. If I were in Jesus' shoes, I might have felt imposed upon interrupted in my grief and need for rest. Instead, Matthew tells us that Jesus' heart was moved with pity. He heals the sick, and as evening falls, the disciples present a logistical nightmare: a hungry crowd of thousands in the middle of nowhere, with only five loaves and two fish.
- The disciples look at the problem and see scarcity. They say, "Send the crowds away." Jesus looks at the problem and sees a canvas for grace. He says, "Give them some food yourselves."

This dynamic echoes the prophet Isaiah's stirring invitation in our First Reading: "Come, eat without paying... Why spend your money for what fails to satisfy?"

- Jesus doesn't just feed the physical hunger of the crowd; He prefigures the eternal banquet of the Eucharist. He takes the little we offer—our meagre prayer, our fractured patience, our limited resources—blesses it, breaks it, and multiplies it beyond our wildest imagination. Notice that Jesus could have made bread rain down from heaven entirely out of thin air. But He chooses to use what the disciples brought. He enlists them. He enlists us.

And what of our Second Reading? Saint Paul asks a question that pierces straight to the heart of our anxieties: "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" Tribulation? Distress? Hunger?

- Paul answers with a resounding triumph: "No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us." When we feel spiritually depleted, wandering through our own "deserted places" of burnout, grief, or doubt, Jesus does not send us away. He looks at our inadequacy, takes it into His hands, looks up to heaven, and blesses it.

This week, let us bring our five loaves and two fish—whatever small offering of faith we have left—to the altar. Let us trust that in the hands of the Lord, no desert is too barren, and no hunger is too great to be satisfied.

Achonry & Elphin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

The Achonry & Elphin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine takes place on Sunday, 16th August 2026. There will also be a Family Day on the same date offering various activities for families with children of all ages. The dioceses extend a special invitation to altar servers and their families to join the pilgrimage. **A bus will be going from Athlone, please contact Caroline on 086 1960356.**

Athlone – Châteaubriant Town Twinning

We extend a warm welcome to the Châteaubriant Catholic Youth Group who will be visiting Athlone next week, August 3rd to August 6th. It is a great joy to welcome Fr. Jean-Louis Gomis, Gwenvael Riche (seminarian) and nine youth members of our parish and community. We wish them every blessing for a safe, enjoyable and spiritually enriching stay among us.

Mary's Meals

Annual Step by Step walk to Knock to Feed the Next Child is from 7th to 15th August. Please support our walkers when they pass through **Athlone on Tuesday the 11th August**. The aim of Mary's Meals is to ensure that every child in the world gets at least one substantial meal a day in their place of education. It costs just €22 to feed a child for a whole school year and 11c provides one school meal. For more information contact Anthony on 0879007911. To learn more and donate go to marysmeals.ie

Heritage Week with Athlone Castle – Documenting Athlone Castle's Collection

On Saturday 15th August we will be hosting a series of **FREE** workshops at Abbey Road Artists' Studios where participants of all ages will help us record, document, and photograph a selection of artifacts for inclusion in our new digital artifact catalogue. Booking is essential as places are limited. For more information & booking visit www.athlonecastle.ie/events

Children age 7-12: 11.00am – 12.30pm

Teens age 13-17: 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Adults 18+: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Booking of Masses for 2027 in Drum & Clonown

Are now taking bookings for 2027. You can contact Drum Office @ 090 6437 125 or email: drumoffice@athloneparish.ie

Luan Gallery, Athlone Castle, and Abbey Road Studios & Community Space

Are delighted to announce a two-day community exhibition showcasing work created by participants in **Threads of Place**. This collaborative visual arts project connects the local community with contemporary creative practice and Athlone's rich cultural and historical heritage. The exhibitions are on **Saturday 1st Aug 11 am to 5 pm** and **Sunday 2nd Aug 12pm to 5 pm** in Luan Gallery (Boardwalk Gallery) and Abbey Road Artist Studios Community Space (first floor). **FREE EVENT**, no booking required. For more info. visit www.luangallery.ie

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

2460395	Caretaker / Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.
2460393	Caretaker / Grounds-person Clonown Community Project.
2460391	Caretaker / Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.
2460398	Caretaker / Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.
2460396	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.
2460397	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2458002	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Community Centre.
2458001	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 soul of
Ann Westman (née Gaffey), Cherryfield Avenue.

May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection

Sunday July 26th € 1,690.

**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