



• **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 4th July to Sunday 12th July 2026**

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

Saturday 4th July	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	6.30 pm	vigil (SP) Also Live Streamed Tommy Wall. Paddy Moran.
Sunday 5th July	9.00 am	(SP) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Mary Lennon & daughter Catherine. Johnny Shine.
Monday 6th July	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Followed by Novena & Benediction Martin & Kathleen Daly.
Tuesday 7th July	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed The People of Ireland.
Wednesday 8th July	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	6.00 pm	(SP) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Thursday 9th July	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Michael Duignan.
Friday 10th July	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	7.30 pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed Malcolm Biggs. Arthur & Angela Mc Carrick and their daughter Joan Harding.
Saturday 11th July	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked
	6.30 pm	vigil (JD) Also Live Streamed Mandy Joyce. Michael Shine. Brendan Beirne.
Sunday 12th July	9.00 am	(JD) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(SP) Also Live Streamed Raymond Harris - 1st Anniversary. Tom Duignan. Joe, Delia & Linda Curley and Della Sheridan. Nora & James O'Connor and deceased family members.

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
4th July – 12th July**



Sat. 4th - 8 p.m. (JD) Bridie McManus, Nure-1st Anniversary.

Sun. 5th - 10 a.m. (JD) Gloria Walshe, Crannaghbeg.

Tues. 7th - 7 p.m. (SP) Hannah & Thomas Lennon, Clonrulla and deceased family members.

Thurs. 9th - 7 p.m. (JD) Cathriona Meehan, Liberty.

Sat. 11th - 8 p.m. (SP) Martin & Mary McManus, Drumlosh.

Sun. 12th - 10 a.m. (SP) Alan Ledwith, Edwin & Eileen Teape, Kieran Kenny, Anne & Michael Kilroy.

**Clonown Mass Intentions for
5th July – 12th July**



July 5th. 11.15 a.m. (SP) Mass in the Cemetery.

July 12th. 11.15 a.m. (JD) Fr. Larney Shine, Currnaboll.

The church gate collection in aid of The Assisted Pilgrim Fund on 21st June raised €195. Thank you for your generosity.

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 works on the Boundary Wall continue.

Parking restrictions remain in place at Ss. Peter and Paul's Church.

www.athloneparish.ie vocations@elphindiocese.ie

The "Heavy Backpack" Secret

Have you ever had a day where everything felt... heavy? Maybe it was a huge pile of homework, an argument with a friend, or just feeling like you have to be perfect all the time. It's like carrying a school backpack filled with textbooks you don't even need. You're tired before the day even starts.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus notices this. He looks at the people around him—people who were stressed, tired, and trying too hard to do everything "right"—and he says something that sounds a bit strange: "**Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.**"

Then he adds, "**For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.**"

Think about that for a second. Jesus isn't promising that our lives will suddenly be free of chores or tests. Instead, he's offering to carry the "heavy" part *with us*.

In the reading from Zechariah, we see a vision of a King who doesn't arrive on a scary warhorse, but on a humble donkey. He isn't a "bossy" king; he's a gentle one. And that's the secret: Jesus is the kind of leader who wants to be your teammate, not your taskmaster.

When we feel overwhelmed, it's usually because we're trying to carry the weight of the world on our own shoulders. We feel like we have to prove ourselves. But the message today is that you don't have to do it alone.

This week, try this:

**When you feel that "heavy backpack" feeling—when you're stressed, anxious, or just tired—
take a deep breath and say, "Jesus, I'm giving this part to you."**

You don't have to be everything to everyone. You just have to be yourself, resting in the fact that your teammate is the God of the universe, and he's much stronger than any burden you're carrying.

Rest is not just for Sunday; it's a way of living. And it starts by letting Jesus help you carry the load.

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 organise a social event around the Mass is entirely up to your community; the primary goal is simply to gather as neighbours in prayer.

If your area would like to host a Mass, please contact your area priest or the office to discuss the details.

Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage

Celebrating the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, this pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 26th July 2026 at Knock Shrine. Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm and Mass at 3pm. Celebrant, Archbishop Eamon Martin. A day of grace and blessing for the whole family.

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.

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. If you are interested in being part of the committee please let Martina know at parishoffice@athloneparish.ie

Feile na Sionainne Festival Launch

With Edwina Guckian's Devil's in the Dance Hall Saturday 25th July @ 8pm in Moore Hall (N37HT68) Early bird tickets available for a limited period, €25. Phone inquiries **086 0146516** or email feilenasionainne@gmail.com

ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE: A day trip to Lough Derg

Will take place on Saturday 12th September '26. Leaving the Sacred Heart Church car park, Roscommon @ 6.30 am.

Booking enquiries Teresa 087 1206343 or Noreen 086 3529916 (090 6625209).

Luan Gallery

Presents Two Solo Exhibitions for its Summer Exhibitions Programme - Solo Exhibitions *Field Station: Cornafulla* by Amanda Ralph and *States, Stations* by Samir Mahmood. The Exhibitions run until Sunday, 30th August. The official exhibitions opening is on Thursday, 2nd July at 6:30 pm, and all are welcome to attend. Visit luangallery.ie for more information.

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
Robert (Robbie) Kilmartin, Slane & formerly of Parnell Square
Mary Frances Kelly (née Hardiman), Ballydangan.
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection

Sunday June 28th € 1,610.

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