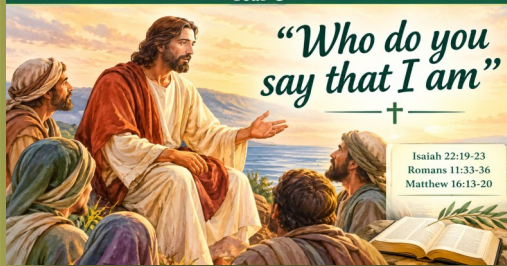


21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C



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: 086 860 5333
Frank Conroy
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 22nd August - 30th August

Sat. 22nd - 8 p.m. (SP) Norah Seery, Clonellán.
Sun. 23rd - 10 a.m. (JW) Dan, Kathleen & Peter Harney, Rooskey
and deceased family members.
Tues. 25th - 7 p.m. (JW) Mary & Patrick Whelan.
Maureen & Desmond Foody.
Wed. 26th - 7 p.m. (JW) Memorial Mass for the late
Marsila Wenjeslaus (Fr. Joseph's Beloved Mother)
followed by a cup of tea in Drum Parish Hall.
Thurs. 27th - 7 p.m. (JW) James & Margaret Lennon, Summerhill &
deceased family members.
Sat. 29th - 8 p.m. (JW) Joe Gilgan, formerly Thomastown.
Sun. 30th - 10 a.m. (JW) Michael Greaney, Summerhill.

On Wednesday next August 26th a Concelebrated
Memorial Mass for Fr. Joseph's Mother (Marsila
Wenjeslaus RIP) will be held in St. Brigid's Church,
Drum at 7pm. A cup of tea in the hall afterwards.
ALL ARE WELCOME



SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 22nd August to Sunday 30th August 2026

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

Saturday 22nd Aug.	9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed Paddy Walshe. Kathleen Ward. 6.30 pm Vigil (JW) Also Live Streamed Ann Westman - Month's Mind. Gerry Lacey. Marie Mc Ardle. Moira O'Brien (née Mulligan). Ann Mc Cracken. Billy & Maureen Mc Cormack & dec. fam. Tommy & Mary Connaughton & dec. fam.
Sunday 23rd Aug.	9.00 am (JD) People of the Parish 12.00 pm (JD) Also Live Streamed Anne Hewitt - 1st Anniversary. Madge Kelly - 1st Anniversary. Kieran & Pat Fallon. Patrick Egan. Jackie Mc Loughlin.
Monday 24th Aug.	9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed Followed by Novena & Benediction No Intention Booked.
Tuesday 25th Aug.	9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
Wednesday 26th Aug.	9.30 am (JW) Also Live Streamed Tommy & Johnny Curley. 7.00 pm Memorial Mass for Marsila Wenjeslaus (beloved mother of Fr. Joseph) in Drum Church. (JD) Also Live Streamed Stephen Doran.
Thursday 27th Aug.	9.30 am (SP) Also Live Streamed John & Rose Meehan.
Friday 28th Aug.	9.30 am (JW) Also Live Streamed Teresa Norton. John & Bridget Halligan & their son Paddy, Collogoriff, Clonown. Mike Keegan.
Saturday 29th Aug.	9.30 am (JW) Also Live Streamed Kathleen Ward, Baylough. Bernie Bannon. 6.30 pm Vigil (SP) Also Live Streamed Tessie & Pat Ganly.
Sunday 30th Aug.	9.00 am (SP) People of the Parish 12.00 pm (JW) Also Live Streamed Mick & Peggy Fenlon. Patrick Farrell Snr. & Jnr. and Lilly Farrell.

Clonown Mass Intentions for 23rd August - 30th August

Aug. 23rd 11.15 a.m. (SP) Johnny Halligan, Buggane.
Aug. 30th 11.15 a.m. (SP) Bill & Peg Fallon, Newtown and
deceased members of the
McClellan & Fallon families.

OUR LADY
OF THE
WAYSIDE

Knights of the Order of Malta

Today Sunday August 23rd we are delighted to welcome the Knights, Dames, Chaplains and Members
of the Irish branches of the Order of Malta to join us for the 12 noon Mass.
They will be in Athlone for the commissioning of 13 new officers at a ceremony later on Sunday afternoon.



"Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)

It's the ultimate pop quiz. Jesus and His disciples are hanging out in the region of Caesarea Philippi—a place steeped in pagan culture, surrounded by towering monuments to Caesar and false gods. Right there in the belly of the secular beast, Jesus turns to His friends and asks for a status update.

"The crowds say I'm a good guy, a prophet, a teacher. But what about you?"

- Peter steps up to the plate and hits a theological grand slam: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Notice Jesus' response. He doesn't say, "Good guess, Pete."
- He says, "Blessed are you... for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

Here is the kicker for us today. We live in our own version of Caesarea Philippi. We are constantly bombarded by the "culture's" opinion of who Jesus is—just a nice moral teacher, a historical figure, or altogether irrelevant. And every Sunday (and every day, really), Jesus looks past the noise of the world, looks straight into our pew, and asks us the exact same question: **Who do you say that I am?**

Answering that question isn't a one-time event; it's a daily surrender. In our First Reading from Isaiah, we hear about the heavy burden of leadership and the keys of the kingdom being passed to Eliakim (Assembly). In the Gospel, Jesus passes those keys to Peter. The Greek word used for "church" here is an assembly. **We are that assembly.**

And Paul reminds us in our Second Reading (Romans 11) just how mind-bogglingly vast God's wisdom is:

"For from him and through him and for him are all things."

When life feels heavy, when the budget is tight, when our families are struggling, or when our faith feels dry, we can lean on the rock. Jesus didn't build His Church on Peter's perfection. **He built it on Peter's confession of faith.**

So, this week, take a moment in the quiet of your car, your kitchen, or before the Blessed Sacrament. Let Jesus ask you the question. Let the Holy Spirit whisper the answer back to your heart. And then, live like you mean it.

St. Brigid's Church Drum; Over the past few months a number of upgrades have been happening in Drum Church, Over the coming weeks the redecoration of the Church will begin. The quotes received were much higher than what we had expected, but on checking them out they were competitive based on current pricing. The cost of redecorating the Church inside and outside as well as the outside of Fr. Joseph's House is in the region of €30,000. We ask your help in meeting this cost by using the special envelope which will be available at the back of the church from next weekend.

Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown; Next spring, we hope to be in a position to tarmac the carpark at the church, the estimated cost is €10,000. We hope to gather the money to complete this project over the winter months. We ask your assistance by using the special Clonown Carpark envelope which will be available in the church porch from next weekend. **Thanking you for your support on both projects.**

Mental Health Awareness Night

The Parish Pastoral Council are hosting a Mental Health Awareness night on Thursday September 24th in The Shamrock Lodge Hotel from 7.30 to 9pm. The evening will include four speakers, A Psychologist, An Occupational Therapist and two personal testimonies. **Full Details Next Week**

Jubilee of Marriages

Couples celebrating their Silver, Ruby, Golden, Diamond, Platinum or other wedding anniversaries are invited to attend a Jubilee Mass, along with their families and friends on Sunday 11th October at 2.30pm in Kiltoom Church. Bishop Kevin will celebrate both Masses. Light refreshments will be served afterwards for all in attendance. As each couple celebrating an Anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Kevin, they are asked to register their details at www.achonryelphin.ie

Athlone and Midland Samaritans

Athlone Samaritans need additional volunteers to maintain their 24Hr free befriending service.

Could you be a Samaritan volunteer? No experience or qualification needed as we will train, mentor and support you. If you think you might be interested, please call or text **John 087 7176168** or email athlone.branchrecruitment@samaritans.org.

Samaritans provide 24hr emotional support on Freecall 116123.

Feile na Sionainne presents

Youth Open Mic Evening, Thursday 27th August at 7pm in the Lough Ree Inn. An opportunity for teenagers to perform in a relaxed, friendly and encouraging environment.

All are welcome.

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

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2026 – ATHLONE

Connaught Street & Environs Community Group is delighted to present a week-long programme of free Heritage Week events from 15th–23rd August. www.athloneconnaughtstreet.com

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of

Marian Grehan (née Daly), Monksland.

Michael Asicus Lennon, Monksland & formerly of Ardekeenan.

Patrick O'Boyle formerly of Millbrook Drive, Monksland.

Chrissie Finlass (née Derwin), St. Anne's Terrace.

Frances Ryan (née Foley), Thomastown.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly

Offertory Collection

Sunday August 16th € 1,770.

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

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.