

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

Parish Contact Details

V. Rev John Deignan P.P. 090 - 6490874
10 Ashford, Monksland.
Fr. Simon Peter Akpoja 090 - 6492171
Forthill House.
Ss. Peter & Paul's Office: Tues - Fri 9.30am - 1pm
Secretary: Martina Mc Sweeney, 090 - 6492171
Forthill House.
Fr. Joseph Wenjeslaus C.C. 090 - 6437125
St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum
(Drum / Clonown Areas)
Drum Office: Mon - Wed 9am to 1pm
Secretary: Catherine Higgins, St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum
090 - 6437125
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PJ Stacey 087 248 6206
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Safe guarding Rep:
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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 29th August - 6th September

Sat. 29th - 8 p.m. (JW) Joe Gilgan, formerly Thomastown.
Sun. 30th - 10 a.m. (JW) Michael Greaney, Summerhill.
Tues. 1st - 7 p.m. (JW) No Intention.
Thurs. 3rd - 7 p.m. (JW) Thomas & Mary Ellen Lennon, Cornafulla
North & deceased family members.
Sat. 5th - 11am (JW) Caithlín Duignan, Thomastown
- **Month's Mind.**
- **8 p.m. (JW)** Tom Griffin, Rooskey & deceased family
members.
Sun. 6th - 10 a.m. (JD) John & Mary Naughton, Clonellan &
deceased family members.



Please keep our young people who have received their college and higher education offers in your prayers; that the Holy Spirit may guide their discernment, open new doors for their futures, and help them use their knowledge and talents to build up a more just and compassionate world.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th August to Sunday 6th September 2026

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

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.
Monday 31st Aug.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Followed by Novena & Benediction Mona, Terry & Seamus Bleakley. Patrick Power.
Tuesday 1st Sept.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed Jimmy Broderick, parents Francis & Michael, sisters Edna, Nuala, Rosie & Francie & deceased family members.
Wednesday 2nd Sept.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
Thursday 3rd Sept.	6.00 pm	(JW) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Friday 4th Sept.	9.30 am	(JD) Also Live Streamed Elizabeth Conneely.
	7.30 pm	(JD) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
Saturday 5th Sept.	9.30 am	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.
	6.30 pm Vigil	(JD) Also Live Streamed Esther, John, Esther Jnr. & Patricia Costello.
		(JD) Also Live Streamed Tessie & Pat Ganly. May Flynn & deceased members of the Minogue family. Patrick & Tereas Murray & Ancestry Culfatha.
Sunday 6th Sept.	9.00 am	(SP) People of the Parish
	12.00 pm	(SP) Also Live Streamed No Intention Booked.

Church gate collection this weekend in aid of Pro Life Campaign.

Clonown Mass Intentions for 30th August - 6th September

OUR LADY
OF THE
WAYSIDE

Aug. 30th 11.15 a.m. (SP) Bill & Peg Fallon, Newtown and
deceased members of the
McClellan & Fallon families.
Sept. 4th 7 p.m. (JW) Brian Ward, Oldtown.
Sept. 6th 11.15 a.m. (JW) Michael, Rose, John &
Margaret Dunning. Michael Dunning.
Rose Rodgers. Sr. Philomena (SMDM).
Fr. Brendan (SMA). John Francis.

Please pray for the success of our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
especially for the sick, the pilgrims, youth and caregivers joining it.

May Our Lady's intercession bring physical healing, emotional comfort, and spiritual renewal to all involved.

www.athloneparish.ie
vocations@elphindiocese.ie

Reflection: The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Matthew 16:23)

- In our First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah cries out to God, practically shaking his fist in frustration. He feels deceived and overpowered by the Lord. He tried to keep quiet, but God's word became *"like a burning fire locked up in my bones,"* forcing him to speak out, even though it brought him nothing but derision and daily mockery.
- Then, in the Gospel, we experience one of the most jarring emotional whiplashes in Scripture. Just moments after Jesus praises Peter for his profound confession of faith, Peter hears the Lord utter a devastating rebuke: *"Get behind me, Satan!"*

Why? Because Peter, out of love and natural human instinct, tried to talk Jesus out of the cross. *"Lord, this shall never happen to you!"* Peter cried. It is the most human of responses. Who among us wants to suffer? Who naturally seeks out a cross?

- Yet, as Jesus points out, Peter was thinking as the world thinks, not as God thinks.
- In our Second Reading, St. Paul gives us the antidote to this worldly mindset. He begs the Romans - and us - not to conform to this age, but to be *transformed by the renewal of your minds*. Paul challenges us to offer our very bodies as a *"living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."*

In a culture that constantly whispers, "Protect your comfort, avoid pain, look out for number one," the Gospel demands a total inversion. Jesus reminds us that true life is found not in clinging to it, but in losing it for His sake.

This week, let us look at the "crosses" in our own lives. Are we trying to bargain our way out of suffering, viewing hardships as proof that God has abandoned us - much like Jeremiah felt? Or can we ask the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, transforming our daily trials, sacrifices, and acts of love into a living offering to God?

To take up our cross is not to seek misery; it is to love so deeply that no sacrifice is too great.

St. Brigid's Church Drum; Over the past few months a number of upgrades have been happening in Drum Church. In 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 is now available at the back of the church.

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 is now available at the back of the church.

Thanking you for your support on both projects.

Schools return from the summer break

As children and teenagers begin a new school year, we pray that they may be blessed with eager minds, joyful hearts, and safe environments to learn. May they know their true worth and feel supported by their families, teachers, and our faith community.

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 (Samaritans provide 24hr emotional support on Free call 116123.)

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.

Mary's Meals

Would like to thank all those who supported our Step by Step Walk to Knock Shrine passing through Athlone on Tuesday 11th August last and for all the generous donations received, just over €2,000. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the collection.

Booking of Masses for 2027 in Drum & Clonown

Phone **090 6437 125** or email drumoffice@athloneparish.ie
A Ladies watch was found at Drum Church, contact Drum parish office for more details.

CALLING ALL SINGING LOVERS!!

Athlone Choral Society would like to welcome new members, of all genders. We are starting back in preparation for our Christmas Concert in December. We practice every Mon. at 7.15pm-9.30pm, starting Mon August 31st, in St. Peter's NS Hall, Excise Street, Athlone. athlonechoralsocietypro@gmail.com

MEMORY HEART CRAFTING SESSION

Do you hold onto the cherished garment of a loved one? Why not craft it into your own special memento? Bring your chosen item, and enjoy the company & crafting suggestions of others, while we work. Needles, threads, etc will be provided. Join us anytime between 10am - 1pm on Tues. 1st Sept., Rm 14, ACT Building, Ball Alley Lane, Parnell Sq., Athlone. This FREE WORKSHOP is the first in a series of four monthly workshops, provided to you by Athlone Family Resource Ctr.

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 souls of

Breege Mc Farland (née Gunn), Slí An Aifrin.

Mary Kelly (née Kelly), Oakdale.

Margaret Gavin (née Harrington), Crancam, Drum.

Michael Kerrigan, formerly of Connolly Street.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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

Sunday August 23rd € 1,865.

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