

Feasting on God's Abundance: Have you ever planned a party, poured your heart into the menu, and then watched as the invited guests politely—or not-so-politely—made excuses to stay home? It's a painful feeling. Yet, in this Sunday's Gospel, that is precisely the image Jesus uses to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. A king prepares a lavish wedding banquet for his son, slaughtering the finest cattle, setting the tables, and sending out the servants. But the invited guests are too busy. One has a field to tend; another has business to run. The invitation is spurned. What happens next is shocking. The king doesn't cancel the party. Instead, he opens the doors to <i>everyone</i>—the good and the bad, the marginalised and the ordinary—filling the banquet hall to capacity. This parable strikes at the heart of our human tendency to miss the point. How often do we get bogged down in the “business” of our daily lives—our worries, our to-do lists, our self-reliance—and accidentally RSVP “no” to God's invitation of joy? Isaiah offers us a breathtaking preview of this very feast: “<i>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines.</i>” God is not offering a meagre ration; He is offering total abundance, the ultimate wiping away of tears, and the end of sorrow. Saint Paul reminds us in our second reading from Philippians where true strength lies when life gets heavy: “<i>I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.</i>” Paul knew what it was to live in abundance and to live in humble penury, yet his gaze remained fixed on the ultimate Provider. This week, let us check our calendars and our hearts. Are we too busy building our own kingdoms to accept the King's invitation? The banquet table is set right here, in our parish, in the Eucharist, and in our daily encounters with grace. The King is waiting. Will you walk in and take your seat?																															
Exploring our Catholic Faith (12 sessions of discovery) We were delighted with turn out at the first session which exceeded our expectations. Journeying Deeper: Encountering Christ (Session 2) Following the initial session of our "Exploring Our Catholic Faith" series, where we laid the groundwork for understanding faith in today's complex world, we are delighted to give you the details for Part 2! On night one, we opened the conversation, acknowledging the search for that connection to something greater. In this session, we dive into the very heart of our faith: the Person of Jesus Christ. This session, titled "Encountering Christ: The Person of Jesus,". We invite you to a deeper, more personal engagement with the central figure of Christian faith. How do we truly "grapple" with Jesus in an age of scepticism, diverse beliefs, and constant information? This session will be a blend of presentation, reflection, and open discussion to explore just that. The session will be led by Una Feely and will again be held in the conference room of the Liturgical Centre.																															
Heating in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church With the heat now on in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church we are expecting the weekly cost for heating the church to be in the regions of €1,300 to €1,500. As we use Marked Gas Oil for the boiler, we have not received any reduction in the cost from the budget. We will leave special envelopes at the back of the church for those who are in a position to help with the huge cost over the winter months. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.																															
St. Brigid's Church Drum; Redecoration of the Church We ask your help in meeting this cost by using the special envelope which is now available at the back of Drum church. Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown; resurfacing the car park. ask your assistance by using the special Clonown Carpark envelope which is now available at the back of Clonown church. Thanking you for your support on both projects.																															
Mass of Gratitude The Parish Pastoral Council are delighted to host a Mass of Gratitude for our Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors and all who help in any way in the three churches or throughout the Parish will be held in St. Brigid's Church Drum on Thursday October 22nd at 8pm followed by a light supper in Drum Parish Hall. To confirm your attendance for catering purposes please let Catherine know you are coming before Monday 19th at 1pm. Catherine can be contacted by phone Monday thru Wednesday in the morning on 0906437125 or drumoffice@athloneparish.ie																															
Athlone Little Theatre Athlone Little Theatre is delighted to present 'Present Laughter' by Noël Coward, a sparkling comedy to open the autumn season from October 23rd – 30th next. Curtain up at 8pm. Sunday matinee at 3pm on October 25th. Book your tickets via www.athlonelittletheatre.ie or																															
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. <table><tr><td>Job Ref:</td><td>Position / Project Area</td></tr><tr><td>2471169</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.</td></tr><tr><td>2471168</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.</td></tr><tr><td>2471175</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.</td></tr><tr><td>2471170</td><td>Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.</td></tr><tr><td>2471172</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.</td></tr><tr><td>2468176</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Community Centre.</td></tr><tr><td>2468172</td><td>Caretaker / Grounds-person Athlone Boat Club.</td></tr><tr><td>2465273</td><td>Administrator / Reception Athlone Drug Awareness Group</td></tr></table> Please note that you must be eligible for Community Employment 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.	Job Ref:	Position / Project Area	2471169	Caretaker / Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.	2471168	Caretaker / Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.	2471175	Caretaker / Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.	2471170	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.	2471172	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.	2468176	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Community Centre.	2468172	Caretaker / Grounds-person Athlone Boat Club.	2465273	Administrator / Reception Athlone Drug Awareness Group	Coffee Morning & Raffle In aid of Lough Ree RNLI on Sunday 18th October in Clonown Community Centre, immediately after 11.15am mass. Your support would be greatly appreciated. St. Peter's N.S. Are a Table Quiz on Thursday 15th October at 8pm to support school ICT upgrades. €40 per table, max team size: 4. Your support would greatly be appreciated. Irish Guide dogs for the Blind Are holding their Annual "Pet Blessing " on Saturday 10th October at 3.30pm at St. Peters and Paul's Church. Athlone. All welcome. Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection Sunday October 4th € 2,095. Thank you for your ongoing contributions and generosity. <table><tr><td>Ss Peter & Paul's Church</td><td>IBAN IE68 AIBK 9322 6436 857014</td><td>BIC AIBKIE2D</td></tr><tr><td>St. Brigid's Church</td><td>IBAN IE92 AIBK 9322 6411 809048</td><td>BIC AIBKIE2D</td></tr><tr><td>Clonown Church</td><td>IBAN IE46 AIBK 9322 6406 860063</td><td>BIC AIBKIE2D</td></tr><tr><td>Support of the Priests</td><td>IBAN IE69 AIBK 9322 6436 857287</td><td>BIC AIBKIE2D</td></tr></table>	Ss Peter & Paul's 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
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Weekly Newsletter

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11th, 2026



Parish Contact Details

V. Rev John Deignan P.P. 090 - 6490874
 10 Ashford, Monksland. frjohn@athloneparish.ie
Fr. Simon Peter Akpoja CC 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, 090 - 6437125
 St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum 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
Safeguarding 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

St. Brigid's Church, Drum Mass Intentions for 10th - 18th October

Sat. 10th at 8 pm (SP) John Naughten, Ardkeenan.
Sun. 11th at 10 am (SP) Bernadette Shine, Kilty.
Tues. 13th at 7 pm (JW) **No Intention Booked.**
Thurs. 15th at 7 pm (JW) Ellen & John Lennon, Kilmacormack and deceased family members.
Sat. 17th at 11 am (JW) Hubert Harney, Crannaghmore - **Month's Mind.**
at 8 pm (JD) **No Intention Booked.**
Sun. 18th at 10 am (JW) Pat Keena, Cornafulla and deceased members of the Keena and Faherty families.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th October to Sunday 18th October 2026

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

Saturday 10th Oct.
9.30 am (SP) John Hynes
6.30 pm Vigil (JW) Anne Fitzpatrick & Marie Fitzpatrick
- 1st Anniversary.
Sunday 11th Oct.
9.00 am (DO) **People of the Parish**
12.00 pm (JW) Pat Gavin, Moppy Fallon.
 Fred & Brenda Madden and their son
 Brendan and daughters Freda & Joan.
Monday 12th Oct.
9.30 am (SP) John O'Neill - Summerhill.
Followed by Novena & Benediction
Tuesday 13th Oct.
9.30 am (SP) **No Intention Booked.**
Wednesday 14th Oct.
9.30 am (SP) Mark O'Connor - 2nd Anniversary.
6.00 pm (JD) **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**
Thursday 15th Oct.
9.30 am (JD) **No Intention Booked.**
Friday 16th Oct.
9.30 am (JD) Mary Feeney Kilmartin.
7.30 pm (SP) Alan Evans.
 Joe & Eileen Cahill and deceased members of
 the Cahill & Flynn families.
 Alan Heaney & Nicolas Quinn.
Saturday 17th Oct.
9.30 am (DO) **No Intention Booked.**
6.30 pm Vigil (SP) Jimmy & Mary Kirwin.
 James, Bridget, Willie & Bridie Carty.
 Chris Keleghan and deceased family.
Sunday 18th Oct.
9.00 am (DO) **People of the Parish**
12.00 pm (JD) Dick Browne - 1st Anniversary.
 Liam Hynes.

Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown Mass Intentions for 11th - 18th October

Oct. 11th. at 11.15 a.m. (JD) Laurence, Rose and Sonny Shine, Currnaboll.
 Also, deceased family members.
Oct. 18th. at 11.15 a.m. (SP) Patricia Gavin, Carricknaughton
- 1st Anniversary.
 Margaret & John Dunning, Newrow and
 deceased family

Athlone Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

Are having a day of unity and gratitude for old & new members on Saturday
 17th October in the Shamrock Lodge hotel. Registration takes place @
 8.30am. For more info contact: 087 1234567 / 086 9876543

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of
Annemarie Watson (née Naughten), Summerhill.
Jacqueline O'Shea, Meadow Lane, Roscommon Road.
Marie Curran (née Butler), Coosan.
Frances Shine (née McHugh), Kilty.
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

COME CRAFT WITH US

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this will now take place on Tuesday 13th October. We will be marking Baby Loss Month with a handcrafting Activity. Each person, please bring some fabric or a piece of clothing, to make a small cushion or heart-shaped memento out of. The Baby Loss in question may be your own, that of a family member, or a baby who lost its life in a war-torn country. Join us at 10.00 till 1.00pm in Room 14, ACT building, Ball Alley Lane, Parnell Sq., Athlone. These monthly workshops are free of charge, thanks to the Athlone Family Resource Centre.