

Weekly Newsletter

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25th, 2026



Parish Contact Details

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 Forthill House. frsimonpeter@athloneparish.ie
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 Forthill House. parishoffice@athloneparish.ie
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 St Brigid's Presbytery, Drum frjoseph@athloneparish.ie
(Drum / Clonown Areas)
Drum Office: Mon - Wed 9am to 1pm
 Secretary: Catherine Higgins, 090 - 6437125
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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 24th October – 1st November

Sat. 24th 8pm (JW) Pake & Agnes O'Brien, Creggan. 
 Sun. 25th 10am (JD) Patrick Hogg, Crannaghmore.
 Tues. 27th 7pm (JW) **No Intention Booked.**
 Thurs. 28th 7pm (JW) Brian Murray, Crannaghmore.
 Sat. 31st 11am (JW) Annemarie Watson, Crannagh, Summerhill
 - **Month's Mind.**
 8pm (SP) Mike & Bridie Naughton, Culfatha and their
 son Michael.
 Sun. 1st Nov. 10 am (SP) **All Saints**

The Painting Donations for Drum Church to date are: €4,245.
 Thank you for your continued support.

Don't Forget The Clocks go Back Saturday Night



SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November 2026

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

Saturday 24th Oct.

9.30 am (SP) Vera O'Keeffe, her parents Peg & Harry Murray. Kutch & Paddy O'Rourke and the Mc Manus family, Monksland.
 6.30 pm Vigil (JD) Annemarie Newcombe – **Month's Mind.** Marie Rushe – 2nd Anniversary. May Mulligan. Trevor O'Meara.

Sunday 25th Oct.

9.00 am (DO) **People of the Parish**
 12.00 pm (SP) Eamon & Clare Gleeson.

Monday 26th Oct.

9.30 am (SP) Vincent Sweeney & deceased family.
Followed by Novena & Benediction Prayers for Positive Mental Health.

10.30am

Tuesday 27th Oct.

9.30 am (SP) **No Intention Booked.**

Wednesday 28th Oct.

9.30 am (SP) Charlo Gallagher & deceased family.
 6.00 pm (JW) **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

Thursday 29th Oct.

9.30 am (JD) **No Intention Booked.**
Followed by Prayers for all the priests.

Friday 30th Oct.

9.30 am (JD) Derek Marsh. Billie Collins.
 Bridget & Jimmy O'Neill and daughter Eileen.
 7.30 pm (SP) Paddy & Peggy Corcoran. Nancy Goode. The Waters Family. Mona, Michael & Eileen Fennell.

Saturday 31st Oct.

9.30 am (JD) **No Intention Booked.**
 6.30 pm Vigil (JD) Luke Duffy – 2nd Anniversary.

Sunday 1st Nov.

9.00 am (DO) **All Saints**
 12.00 pm (SP) **People of the Parish**
 Fergus Mc Carrick – 1st Anniversary.
 Joe Hussey – 1st Anniversary.
 Joe & Betty Hussey.
 Paul Grogan.

Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown Mass Intentions for 25th October – 1st November



25th Oct. 11.15 a.m. (JW) Mary & Paddy Dunning, Ballinaculla and deceased family members.
 1st Nov. 11.15 a.m. (JD) **All Saints**
 Lil, Jack and Pat Ward. Clonown.

Annual Defence Forces Mass for Deceased Members

The 2026 Mass for Deceased members of the Defence Forces will take place on Friday November 6th at 11am in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church.

HOLY HOUR

Join Fr. Michael McManus for a Holy Hour in The Church of The Risen Christ, Ballybay, Kiltoom on Wednesday 28th October at 8pm.
 All are welcome.

Halloween Midterm Break

Workshops at Luan Gallery and Abbey Road Artists' Studios suitable for ages 6-12. Curious Forms: Halloween Sculpture Workshops on Wednesday 28th and Friday 30th October and Monster Makers: Halloween Upcycling Workshops on Thursday 29th October. Booking is essential for our workshops and visit our website: luangallery.ie to book and for more info.

The Heartbeat of the Law

Have you ever tried to organise a cluttered junk drawer? You pull everything out, sort through old receipts, rubber bands, and broken pens and suddenly realise that 90% of what's in there is just taking up space.

In this today's Gospel the religious scholars approach Jesus with a version of that very task. They lived in a religious culture weighed down by 613 distinct laws and regulations. To them, the "junk drawer" of tradition was overflowing, and they wanted to know: Which rule matters most? What goes to the very back, and what stays front and centre?

Jesus doesn't hesitate. He doesn't pick a favourite rule out of the hundreds on the books. Instead, He reaches down, sweeps away the clutter, and reveals the foundational framework of everything:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Notice how Jesus couples these two. In the book of Exodus, God gives teeth to this command, specifically warning the Israelites not to wrong or oppress the stranger, the widow, or the orphan. Why? Because God listens when they cry out.

To love God isn't just about private, interior devotion—it has a heartbeat, and that heartbeat is found in how we treat the vulnerable. As St. Paul praises the Thessalonians this week, their faith wasn't just talked about; it was active, turning away from idols to serve the living God in tangible ways.

This week let's simplify our spiritual lives. When decisions get complicated and noise surrounds us, let's return to the ultimate filter: Does this draw me closer to God? Does this show love to my neighbour? Everything else is just details.

Exploring our Catholic Faith Part 4 (12 sessions of discovery)

As we move into **Part 4, Foundational Truths – Understanding the Creed and Core Doctrines** (*Laying out the essential beliefs that define Catholic identity.*) **Goal of this Session:** is to provide participants with a clear, concise understanding of the core beliefs of the Catholic Church, primarily through the lens of the Creed, and to discuss how these truths shape our identity and guide our lives in the modern world.

Wednesday evening, October 28th from 7.30 to 9pm Conference Room at the Liturgical Centre on Castle Street, enter by the door on the right,

November The month of the Holy Souls

The **November Souls envelopes** are available at the back of the churches and can be returned to the Office, Sacristy or in the collection basket at Mass.

The **Memorial Mass to remember all those who have died in the past year** in our parish will take place on Saturday November 21st at 6.30pm. Please bring this Special Mass to the attention of anyone who had a bereavement during the last year.

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.

Old Athlone Society

Join the Old Athlone Society on Wednesday, 28 October 2026, at 8.00 pm in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone, for a lecture by Dr. Gareth Prendergast, serving Colonel in the Irish Defence Forces and author of CLEAR HOLD BUILD: How the Free State Won the Irish Civil War. The lecture will challenge conventional explanations for the Free State's victory and offer a fresh perspective on the strategies that shaped the outcome of the bitter conflict. All welcome to attend.

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 Eventbrite.

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

2471169 Caretaker / Grounds person

2471168 Clonown Church & Parish Hall.

2471175 Caretaker / Grounds-person

2471175 Gentex Football Club.

2471170 Caretaker / Grounds person

2471170 Monksland Community Centre.

2471170 Environmental Worker

2471172 Monksland Tidy Towns.

2471172 Caretaker / Grounds person

2474696 Drum Church & Parish Hall.

2468172 Caretaker / Grounds person

2474687 Drum Community Centre.

2474687 Athlone Boat Club.

2474687 Administrator / Reception

2474687 Athlone Drug Awareness Group

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.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026

Takes place from Thursday Oct. 1st to Saturday Oct. 31st.

For more information, please visit breastcancerresearch.ie or www.breastcancerireland.com.

Fun Table Quiz

In aid of Cancer Care West. Taking place in The Bounty on Thursday 29th October @ 8pm sharp. 4 people per table - €40. Great prizes, please support.

Drum Community Care Fundraiser in the Athlone Springs Hotel on

Saturday 21st November from 9pm to 12.30am. Music by Checkers.

Admission €10. Raffle on the night. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly

Offertory Collection

Sunday October 18th € 1,530.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions and generosity.

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