Parish of
SS. Peter & Paul
Athlone, Drum & Clonown

Weekly Newsletter
First Sunday of Advent
November 29th, 2026

Christmas Confessions
After All Weekend Masses
Next Weekend



Parish Contact Details

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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 28th November – 6th December

Sat. 28th	**8pm (JD)**	**First Sunday of Advent**
		Maureen Dunning, Thomastown.
Sun. 29th	**10am (JW)**	Jodie Harney, Crannaghmore
		Holy Souls -
		Followed by Rosary in the cemetery weather permitting.
Tues. 1st Dec.	**7pm (JW)**	John & Bridie Harney, Curraghaleen.
		Thomas & Janie.
		Denis & Nora Minogue.
Thurs. 3rd	**7pm (JW)**	**No Intention Booked.**
Sat. 5th	**8pm (SP)**	Marty & Nancy Mulvey, Johnstown, their son Marty and grandson Alan.
Sun. 6th	**10am (JD)**	Mai & Michael Glynn, Crannaghmore.

SS Peter & Paul Church Mass Intentions
Saturday 28th November to Sunday 6th December 2026
ALL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED on www.churchservices.tv/athlone

Saturday 28th Nov.		
9.30 am	**(JD)**	Brendan Mc Fadden & deceased family members.
6.30 pm Vigil	**(SP)**	**First Sunday of Advent**
		Gerry Mc Callon **– Month's Mind.**
		Maeve King (née Husssey) **– Month's Mind.**
		Bridie, Jimmy & Mark West and deceased family members.
		Thomas Mulligan – Birthday Remembrance.
Sunday 29th Nov.		
9.00 am	**(DO)**	**People of the Parish**
12.00 pm	**(JD)**	Patricia Gibson.
		John, Kitty & Brian Keena and deceased members of the Kenna family, Lisdillure.
Monday 30th Nov.		
9.30 am	**(JD)**	**No Intention Booked.**
		Followed by Novena & Benediction
Tuesday 1st Dec.		
9.30 am	**(JD)**	The Keane & O'Brien Families.
Wednesday 2nd Dec.		
9.30 am	**(JD)**	Bridie O'Connell.
6.00 pm	**(SP)**	**Blessed Sacrament Chapel**
Thursday 3rd Dec.		
9.30 am	**(SP)**	Catherine Lyons.
		Patrick & Mary Maughan.
Friday 4th Dec.		
9.30 am	**(DO)**	**No Intention Booked.**
7.30 pm	**(SP)**	Margaret, Joseph, George, Tom & Frank Norton and Mary Vaughan.
		Rosie & Willie Milton.
		Martina Dowd.
		Ann & Denis Cleary.
Saturday 5th Dec.		
9.30 am	**(SP)**	Bill & Peggy Browne Tone and Tony, Ambrose and Luca Browne.
6.30 pm Vigil	**(JW)**	Patrick & Mary Dully and deceased members of the Glavey family.
Sunday 6th Dec.		
9.00 am	**(DO)**	**People of the Parish**
12.00 pm	**(SP)**	PJ O'Neill **– 1st Anniversary.**
		Kathleen Byrne.

St. Peter's parish office will be closed from Monday 30th November until Tuesday 8th December. If you have any queries, please contact the Drum parish office 090 6437125.

The 36th Athlone and Midlands Samaritans' Annual Christmas Concert will be held at 8pm on Thursday, December 10th, in the Church of Ss. Peter & Paul. Tickets €20 available from Mulligans, Roscommon Road, Cunninghams' Pharmacies, Printing.com and Whyte's Pharmacy.

Church gate Collection
The Annual fund-raising collections for the charitable works of St. Vincent de Paul will take place on 5th & 6th December. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Our Lady of the Wayside, Clonown
Mass Intentions for 29th November – 6th December

29th Nov.	**11.15 am (SP)**	**First Sunday of Advent**
		Roddy & Bridget Hardiman, Drumlosh and deceased members of the Hardiman and Dunning families and Norma Shine.
4th Dec.	**7 pm (JW)**	**First Friday**
6th Dec.	**11.15 am (JW)**	Johnny Shine, Currnaboll.

Awakening to Grace: A Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" Isaiah 64:1)

With this desperate cry from the Prophet Isaiah, we cross the threshold into a new liturgical year and step together into the season of Advent.

If you are anything like me, you might find yourself approaching this December with a familiar mix of anticipation and exhaustion. The world around us is already shouting its commercial countdown to Christmas, while our hearts often feel a bit battered by the realities of daily life. We look at our communities, our families, and our global family, and we feel the poignant truth of Isaiah's words. We look up at a quiet sky and whisper: *Lord, we need you to break in. Come down.*

And yet, in today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a command that cuts right through our spiritual slumber: *"Be watchful! Be alert!"* (Mark 13:33).

- Notice that Jesus doesn't tell us to panic, to frantically clean house, or to earn our way into God's favour. He simply tells us to *stay awake*. Why? Because the God we are waiting for is not a distant stranger who needs to be begged into noticing us. As St. Paul reminds us in our second reading, God has *already* enriched us in every way. He is faithful, and He has called us into fellowship with His Son.
- Advent is not about waiting for a reluctant God to finally arrive. It is about waking up to the God who is already here, moving quietly in our midst, and promising to complete the good work He has begun in us.

As we light the first candle on our Advent wreath this weekend, let us embrace this holy season not as another item on our to-do list, but as an invitation. Let us clear away a little bit of the noise, tend to the embers of our faith, and watch for the gentle, unexpected ways God breaks into our lives.

He is coming. He is already here. Let us stay awake to His grace.

2027 Sunday Collection Envelopes

The new weekly collection boxes and *(many with new numbers)* should have been delivered to your homes by now. Should you wish to receive one and are not registered please contact the Parish office. **By using the envelope system, it allows the parish to access the Charitable Donations Scheme through which the Government can in most cases contribute 30% on behalf of all who contribute more than €250 in a given tax year.**

*This is at no additional cost to you and does **NOT** trigger a tax audit.*

We express out thanks for your ongoing support to the parish and our gratitude to the area distributers who deliver the boxes.

Exploring St. Johns Gospel

A Group exploring the riches of St. John's Gospel led by Fr Simon Peter continues **@ 8 pm** on Thursday **in Forthill House**. **All are welcome.**

Heating in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church

With the heat now on in Ss. Peter and Paul's Church We are all aware of the huge cost of oil. We will endeavor to keep the church as warm as possible but if the church is cold on any occasion, please understand it is due to the cost and a lack of resources. **We will leave special envelopes at the back of the church for those who can help with the huge cost over the winter months. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.**

St Joseph's Football Club / Colaiste Chiarain - Car Draw

Win a brand-new Mercedes-Benz GLA 180d. Support children's soccer in the parish as we build our first home. The new 3G astro turf pitch will support young people in their club and school. Tickets can be purchased online at https://www.ccathlone.ie/ or at the Colaiste Chiarain reception. ***The draw will take place on News Years Eve in The Mill Bar, Bealnamulla.***

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING Join us on Tuesday, 1/12/26. Bring along a garment, and out of that we'll fashion a Christmas Stocking, or Decoration! Help with Hand sewing skills is on hand, in a relaxed atmosphere. And the workshop is free, thanks to Athlone Family Resource Centre. Find us in Rm 14, ACT Building, Ball Alley Lane, Parnell Sq., Athlone, between 10am and 1pm. All abilities welcome.

Athlone Little Theatre

Athlone Little Theatre presents Four Short Plays - an eclectic mix of engaging storylines embracing love, kindness, intrigue and comic misunderstandings from Friday, November 27th to Wednesday, December 2nd at 8pm, with a Sunday matinee only on November 29th at 3pm. The one-act plays featuring plenty of new talent in a cast of 19 include The Bishop's Candlesticks, Trifles, Enemies and the theatre's first production as Gaeilge, the hilarious comedy, Labhartar Béarla Anseo. Book online at www.athlonelittletheatre.ie or via Eventbrite. Tickets are €15.

School House Quilters Patchwork Quilt Exhibition takes place in St Mary's National School, Fairgreen, Athlone. All are welcome admission free. Opening time: Sun 29/11/26 11am – 5pm. Quilt will be raffled in aid of Athlone Meals on Wheels.

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
3003357	Caretaker / Grounds person Clonown Church & Parish Hall.
3003395	Caretaker / Grounds-person Gentex Football Club.
3003402	Caretaker / Grounds person Monksland Community Centre.
3003791	Environmental Worker Monksland Tidy Towns.
3003404	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Church & Parish Hall.
2474696	Caretaker / Grounds person Drum Community Centre.
3002079	Caretaker / Grounds-person Athlone Boat Club.
3003356	Administrator / Reception 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.

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of

Kathleen Shaw (née Fitzmaurice), Ganly Place.

Patrick Joseph (Pat Jo) Kelly, Glasson formerly of Belmont, Co. Offaly.

Liam Mc Neill, Clonbrusk.

Angela Coyle (née Lacey), Kiltoom.

Michael Vaughan, St. Coman's Park.

Patrick (Pat) Moore, Bealnamulla.

Keith Craughwell, formerly of Woodlands Grove.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Ss. Peter & Paul's Church Weekly Offertory Collection

Sunday November 22nd € 1,810.

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