

Mass intentions this Week in Ss. Peter & Paul's Parish
All Masses are streamed on www.churchservices.tv/athlone.
There are no Masses in Drum or Clonown Churches due to the Coronavirus restrictions.
All booked intentions will be included in the Mass from
Ss. Peter & Paul's Church each day.

For the duration of the Coronavirus restrictions Masses will not be said in public to conform with Government Policy & for the protection of health.

Sunday 21st June

11:00 am People of the Parish. Stafford & Justin Golden,
 Brigid McEvoy (Nee Hawkins), Sr Teresa Hawkins,
 Margaret McEvoy (Nee Coleman), Michael Stacey
 Rose Lawless, Cornafulla South. Also, deceased family members.
 Tim, Laurence, Paddy and Mary Geoghegan. & dec family members.
 Kathleen and Patrick Duffy, Drumlosh

Monday 9:30 am Richard & Mary Kate Durkan, Bridie, Patrick & Una Durcan,
 Mary Howley, Terry McBride.

Seamus & Frances Malone & dec members of the Browne family,

Tuesday 9:30 am Tom & Delia O'Brien

Wednesday 9:30 am The Housebound in our Parish; Angela Cunningham

Thursday 9:30 am Eileen & Danny (Snr) McConnell

Dec members of Marsh & Casey Families

Friday 9:30 am Charlie & Kathleen, Jimmy & Sinead Gallagher
 Patrick & Ann Pillion; Mary Geraghty (Nee Curley),
 Catherine Salisbury (Nee Curley) *Died in England in March.*
 Sonny & Peggy Duff

Saturday 9:30 am Molloy Conroy (1st Anniversary) & Ted Conroy
 Catherine Moran (Nee Lennon); Joan Booth.
 Bridie & Miko McManus, Cornafulla South.

Sunday 28th June

11:00 am Peter Finlass (1st Anniversary); Tina Kildea, Bealnamulla.
 People of the Parish; Gus & Noel Egan; Frank Green,
 Peter, Lena and Kathleen Dunning. Newtown North.

Prayers at Home

In these extraordinary times when we cannot gather for Mass, we would encourage you to download and print out this prayer booklet for use at home. Perhaps consider printing off some copies to pass on to people who may not have internet access. While you can pray this at any time, a good time to do so would be at the time Mass is normally celebrated in your local parish.

www.elphindiocese.ie/prayers-at-home-when-gathering-for-mass-is-not-possible/

June 21st 2020
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Parish Newsletter



Our Parish on-line

Email: stpetersparishathlone@gmail.com
www.sspeterandpaulsparishathlone.com
[Facebook.com/Sspeterandpaulsparish](https://www.facebook.com/Sspeterandpaulsparish) -
Twitter ; @stpetersathlone
Live Camera Feed
www.churchservices.tv/athlone

Ongoing Pastoral Care in our Parish

We remain available to respond to sick calls, pastoral needs or if you want a chat during this period of restrictions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

For Sick / House Call requests please call Fr. John 0906 6490874

Fr. John Deignan P.P.	090-6490874	frjohndeignan@gmail.com
Fr. Bernard Ngalame C.C.	090-6492171	bernardngalame@gmail.com
Fr. Michael Hickey CSSp	090-6437125	michaelhickeycssp@gmail.com

The Parish Offices in Forthill House & Drum are closed for the foreseeable future

St Peters Parish Covid-19 Community Response Group

A voluntary community response group has been established in the Parish of Ss Peter and Paul's Athlone (*Including Drum & Clonown Areas*) to assist those who may be self isolating or cocooned, to get groceries, medications etc, or lonely at this time.

For Assistance 24 / 7 call 087 7195022

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
 I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things,
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite me wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

A thought for today

A genuine Christian cannot fully escape Christ's call to be different from the world. What he asks us is not to conform to the standards of this world, but rather to transform those standards. St Paul thought of Sin entering this world through one man, Adam, and through sin death, so that death has spread throughout the whole human race, because sin is so universal. The world's greatest sin is unbelief, and the task of the Church is to challenge this unbelief, relying on the help of the Holy Spirit.

The last words of Jesus, according to St Matthew, were,

"Go and make disciples of people everywhere; baptise them and teach them to observe all that I taught you.

And I am with you always, yes to the end of time."

Reopening the Churches for Mass

Based on the information to hand at the moment we will be allowed to celebrate our first public Masses from June 29th, however on Tuesday last we received the regulations and restrictions regarding reopening for public Masses. After meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council on Thursday last it seems unlikely that we will be in a position to resume on that date. Some of the issues we face are.

We need volunteers for the following roles.

Door Keepers	To monitor numbers coming into the church for Masses, To ensure we keep within the allowed numbers.
Social distancing	To remind people while in line to maintain distance.
Ushers	To ensure we maximise the number of available seats.
Cleaners	We are required to sanitise the churches after every Mass. on Sundays and weekdays.

**For each Mass in Ss. Peter & Pauls we would need at least 15 Volunteers,
Drum and Clonown about 10 Volunteers to fulfil these roles.**

We also face the issue of restricted numbers allowed into church for Mass

Despite the size of the buildings we are restricted because of the 2 meter rule and the Government regulations as updated on Friday June 19th.

Ss. Peter and Pauls will be allowed no more than 50 people,

Drum & Clonown about 30 people.

We are committed to opening the Churches for Mass as soon as we possibly can, but we must ensure that the regulations are met prior to doing so.

We are also very concerned that in opening we are doing all we can to protect the health of all who are attending Mass. We are also very anxious that when we do return we are not in a position where we have to tell anyone they cannot come into Mass.

I am meeting the Parish Pastoral Council again this week and will keep you all informed as things progress. In the mean time we do need as many volunteers as possible so I encourage you to complete the volunteer form which is available for download from the parish website or from the porches of the churches. Please return them to any of the priests or scan a copy and email it to me frjohndeignan@gmail.com

Thank you all again for the support over the last few months.

Fr. John

Special intention Candle

You can now light a white 7 day candle at our lady's altar in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church for any special intention.

This can be organised through the sacristy at a cost of €10. each.

This will be limited to three candles at a time for safety reasons.

**Please remember to check in on your neighbours especially those who live alone or are elderly,
a phone call or a kind gesture can make a huge difference to many.**

Message from Bishop Kevin re "Mass Gathering" Numbers

Confusion over Announcement

The announcement by the Taoiseach on Friday evening that "Mass gatherings" for up to 50 people indoors will be allowed from 29th June is giving rise to confusion and concern. Such a limitation would make absolutely no sense where Churches are concerned as it is not even remotely based on physical distance. While some Churches could not accommodate 50 people while maintaining the two metre distance, other larger Churches could easily accommodate up to 150 people quite safely, while observing all the public health requirements.

It is important to say that no such limit on Public Mass was suggested when it was announced earlier this month the Churches could resume their public activity at the end of the month.

I sincerely hope that this matter will be clarified very soon, as many good people have been working extremely hard to prepare for the return to public Mass and the Sacraments.

The Church has been extremely responsible throughout the entire period of the pandemic and we have now taken very serious steps to prepare for a safe return to public Mass and the Sacraments. Our guidance document is called "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God" and it is available on www.elphindiocese.ie

Parish Finances

I am very aware of the stresses on people financially throughout this period of restrictions, however following on from a number of enquiries regarding contributing financially to the parish during these days of restrictions. There are a number of ways you can do so.

- You can arrange to have your envelopes / contribution dropped into one of the Priests houses.
- You can place your weekly contribution aside each week and drop them all in together when the restrictions are lifted.
- You could organise to set up a standing order from your bank each week / month
- You can donate online at www.elphindiocese.ie and choose our parish from a drop down menu. All funds will be allocated to the designated parishes.

I would like to thank those who have sent in contributions for both the support of the Parish and of the Clergy.

Fr. John

Lough Derg Online

During the month of June, Lough Derg is offering opportunities to have an experience of retreat and pilgrimage from wherever you are. Online Retreat Days continue from 27th – 29th June people can do the Three Day Pilgrimage from afar, along with the Prior and team. To register for this historic event and for full details of what is happening during June go to www.loughderg.live Tel. 071 9861518 or Email info@loughderg.org

St Vincent de Paul

We are living in very strange times. Covid 19 has changed our lives in so many ways. At this time we are all encouraged to reach out to our neighbours, to help and to give to others who are in need. But we must also remember that we all need help sometimes.

Please contact SVP on (091) 563 233 or email info.west@svp.ie or www.svp.ie