

friendly, and experienced team, facilitators typically provide four marriage preparation programmes per annum. Each team works from Accord centres which are located in every diocese, north and south. Successful applicants will receive free professional training during seven in-person workshops at venues around the country and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes in their local area. Closing date for receipt of application forms to be included in Selections for this year is Friday 29th May 2026. Contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or by email to [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie)

**Triduum of Prayer for Vocations** from St Patrick's Day 17<sup>th</sup> March to the Solemnity of St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 19<sup>th</sup> March. Prayer for vocations of St Joseph's Young Priests' Society, in union with the Society branch in St Peter's Parish, will be recited at all Masses.

**St Joseph's Young Priests' Society:** A Holy Hour of prayer and adoration for vocations to the priesthood and religious life will be held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 4.00pm to 5.00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. All welcome.

The **Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal** invite you to **Light the Fire** Tuesday 17th March, St Patrick's Day: 5.15pm Hill of Slane Reflection on the life of St. Patrick, followed by Vespers and Rosary Procession to St. Patrick's Church. 6.30pm St Patrick's Church, Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Connell, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and a cup of tea. For further information contact The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal 041 983 0441 or [www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony](http://www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-anthony)

**Insights into Dementia – Informing and Empowering Family Carers**, designed specifically for family carers and supporters. This 7-week face-to-face course offers valuable information, practical guidance, and emotional support for those caring for a family member or friend living with dementia. Course Details: Venue: Newgrange Hotel, Bridge St, Townparks, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 A6WV Dates: Mondays 11th May- 29th June 2026 Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm Tutor: Sharon Phelan. Further information on [familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie](mailto:familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie).

#### Lourdes Youth Choir

After over 35 years as Director of the Lourdes Youth Choir, Jackie Walshe is calling it a day. She will finish in June. We will have an opportunity to say a formal farewell before the summer.

Under Jackie's outstanding leadership the Lourdes Youth Choir (currently 24 girls, 9 – 17 years) has truly distinguished itself. The standard of music on Sundays in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, is truly exceptional. There is an adult team which works with Jackie. St Peter's Parish, Drogheda seeks a new Director. Suggestions in this regard or expressions of interest should be made to the Parish Office / Parish Priest. Email [office@sppd.ie](mailto:office@sppd.ie) Tel 041 983 8537.

## St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

### Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Canon Eugene Sweeney PP  
Fr Aidan Murphy PE, AP  
Fr Cleophas Lungu, Priest in Residence  
Fr Desmond Branigan CC  
Fr Piotr Wojtala CC  
Deacons: David Durrigan & John Taaffe

St Peter's Parochial House 041 983 8537  
St Peter's Presbytery 041 983 8239

Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery 041 983 1899

St Peter's Church Sacristy 041 984 5355  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy 041 983 1973

[www.sppd.ie](http://www.sppd.ie)

Email [office@sppd.ie](mailto:office@sppd.ie)



#### Mass Times

**St Peter's Church**  
**Monday to Friday**  
8.30am & 10.30am  
Tuesday also  
St Anthony's Novena  
7.30pm  
**Saturday** 10.30am  
Vigil 6.15pm  
**Sunday** 8.00am &  
11.00am

**Our Lady of Lourdes Church**  
**Monday to Saturday**  
10.00am  
**Saturday** Vigil 7.00pm  
**Sunday** 9.00am,  
10.30am & 12noon

**St Peter's Church Shop:** Monday to  
Thursday 11.00am –  
2.00pm  
Friday 11.00am -  
3.00pm  
Saturday 11.00am –  
2.00pm

Email [office@sppd.ie](mailto:office@sppd.ie)

**The Barbican**  
St Peter's Parish  
Centre 041 980 7416

#### Mother's Day

We wish every blessing to all mothers as we celebrate Mother's Day today, and thank them for their generous love and sacrifice. We ask the Lord to grant eternal rest to our deceased mothers.



**Tuesday 17th March, is St Patrick's Day**, a Holy day of obligation.

Mass times as follows:

Our Lady of Lourdes Church: 7.00pm (Monday) Vigil.  
Tuesday: 9.00am, 10.30am.

St Peter's Church: Tuesday, 8.00am, 11.00am.

11.00am Mass will be bilingual – Irish and English.

St Anthony's Novena will be read at the 11.00am Mass. No 7.30pm Novena Mass on St Patrick's Day.

There is a special envelope in your weekly envelope box for St Patrick's Day to support **the pastoral care of Irish emigrants abroad**. The Emigrants Collection is aimed at creating an awareness of the plight of the Irish abroad. Since 1957, the Irish Church continues to identify projects and offers essential support to provide pastoral and practical outreach to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of Irish emigrants in Britain, America, Australia and elsewhere, where many struggle greatly.

**Diocesan Congress on Youth, Family, and Faith, Armagh City,  
20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026**

#### Prayer for the Congress

Heavenly Father,  
As we prepare for the Congress on Youth, Family, and Faith,

We come before You with grateful hearts.  
You have walked with us through the synodal journey,  
teaching us to listen deeply, to speak with love,  
and to walk together in hope.  
Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon our parishes, schools, and homes.  
Renew our faith and unite us as one family in Christ.  
Bless our Congress with wisdom, compassion, and courage,  
that it may bear fruit for the renewal of our Church  
and for the flourishing of all Your people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**A special Congress Novena will be recited at all Masses on 11th – 19th March.**

**Stations of the Cross** in Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Sunday  
during Lent at 5.00pm, led by the priests and deacons of the Parish



**St Peter's Church Eucharistic Adoration** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter's Church is as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel; Wednesday in the main body of the church. Hours of Adoration, 11.00am – 4.00pm (Tuesday to 7.00pm).

**All Masses are streamed live by webcam. [www.sppd.ie](http://www.sppd.ie) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) (Drogheda).**

**Confessions** are held as follows:

St Peter's Church, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12.30–1.00pm;  
Saturday evening in both churches 30 minutes before the Vigil Mass.

**Anniversaries and Month's Minds** may be given in person or telephoned to St Peter's Sacristy, 041 984 5355, Monday – Saturday, 9.00am -1.00pm or Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy, 041 983 1973, Monday – Saturday, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Mass Stipend may be given via credit / debit card by telephone.

**Baptisms:** Please contact the sacristies to arrange dates or to register. Our Lady of Lourdes Church every Saturday at 5.00pm. Register at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy, Thursday – Saturday, 9.30am -12noon. Tel 041 983 1973.

St Peter's Church every Sunday at 12.15pm. Register at St Peter's Church Sacristy, Monday – Saturday, 9.00am -1.00pm. Tel 041 984 5355.

Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium **Legion of Mary** meets in the Stables Meeting Room (Augustinian Church) on Wednesday each week at 4 45pm. All are welcome

**St Vincent de Paul** (Freephone 1800 67 77 77) continues to be ready to help anyone in need.  
**Samaritans** (supporting those in emotional distress 24/7) Freephone number 116 123.  
**Aware** 1800 80 48 48. **Drogheda River Rescue Emergency** 089 250 5562

**Pope Leo's intention for March:** For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**Parish Collection for the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Loose €1,933 Envelopes €1,130 Tap to Donate €608 Total €3,671

**Spring dues**

The priests of the Parish are grateful for your support and thank you for the Spring Dues which are being collected from now to St Patrick's weekend. Dues envelopes also available in both churches.

**Baptism**

**We welcome** Lucy Lou McArdle *into the Christian community*

**Deaths**



**We pray for the recently deceased** Seamus Mullen New York formerly North Road, Jimmy Cudden, Marian Close, Sandyford Terrace, Dom White, Donore, Michael Dowd, Patrick (Pat) Dennis, Mary Smyth, Eileen Carter, Ann Nawn, Bernadette Tormey, Eileen McCormack, Donal Kelly, Nancy Evers, Bernadette Kevitt, Paul Reilly. **May they rest in peace.**

**Drogheda Community Services** provide a one-to-one Bereavement Counselling Service at Dermot Kierans Centre, Scarlet Crescent, Drogheda. This is a free service. To make an appointment please call 041 983 6084 or email [info@droghedacsc.net](mailto:info@droghedacsc.net)

**Contemplative Dominican Monastic Vocation Discernment weekends** in the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena, The Twenties, Drogheda, A92 KR84, from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 and the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026. For single women between the ages of 18- 35 years old. Please contact: Sr. Mairead OP at [sienavoc@gmail.com](mailto:sienavoc@gmail.com) Tel: 041 983 8524.

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 St Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock. supporting married couples in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**Pilgrimage to Rome and Umbria**, 27<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026 Nine-day pilgrimage led by Canon Michael Toner (Lower Creggan Parish) and Fr Paul Murphy (Kilmore Parish, formerly CC, St Peter's) to Rome and Umbria. Excellent value at €1395, includes flights, accommodation, most dinners, coaches and all tours. Visiting some of the most beautiful places in Italy including Assisi, Orvieto and Spoleto. Mass at the tomb of St Carlo Acutis. For more information email [info@myriam.ie](mailto:info@myriam.ie) or call 057 935 5050 during office hours.

**ACCORD NEEDS YOU:** ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG/NI is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators to support couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. The marriage preparation programmes are fun and interactive and very popular with couples. Working as part of an enthusiastic,