

occasion to pray for missing people, and for comfort and strength for families, and to guide all search efforts towards their successful return. Prayers will also be offered for Irish people missing abroad. We pray that the suffering of all these families will end. 11,088 people were reported missing in Ireland in 2024 of whom 66 are still missing. There are currently over 900 unsolved missing people cases in Ireland, including some from our own area.

Armagh Youth, Family and Faith Diocesan Congress 20th – 22nd March 2026
Congress Prayer

God our Father, we your people take time to be still and to bid ourselves to pray, listen and learn.

In the stillness of our searching, you remind us that all journeys of faith begin in your Word “Love one another as I have loved you”.

And so, Father, through you, with you and in you, full of love and respect for each other and all you have created, we go forward renewed as pilgrims of hope.

With hearts full of hope and anticipation, we your people in the Archdiocese of Armagh pray for your blessing and guidance for our Congress on Youth, Family, and Faith.

As we strive to meet the pastoral needs of the young in our faith community at this time and in this place, send your Holy Spirit to inspire and guide us.

May this Congress empower our youth in their faith journeys, strengthen their families of origin and foster deeper encounters with your love and grace.

Through our prayer and dialogue let us grow in understanding of our calling as your people and align our plans with your divine will.

May we be a Church of families living and working for justice, peace and love in the world.

We ask this through the intercession of the saints of Armagh, Patrick, Brigid, Malachy and Oliver and the protection of our Blessed Mother, Mary. We have God’s work to do. So, rise, let us be on our way. Amen.

The **Parish Newsletter** is available at the back of the churches throughout the week. Also see church noticeboards, parish website, Facebook, X and Instagram. Items for the Parish Newsletter may be emailed to office@sppd.ie or handed into the Parish Office by 6.00pm on Wednesday each week.

St Peter’s Parish Newsletter

St Oliver’s Pastoral Area

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14th September 2025

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
St Peter’s Presbytery

Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery

St Peter’s Church Sacristy
Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy




041 983 8537
041 983 8239

041 983 1899

041 984 5355
041 983 1973

www.sppd.ie dedicated to

Email 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
The Barbican
St Peter’s Parish
Centre
041-980 7416

Today, Sunday 14th September is the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. We will venerate the Relic of the True Cross following the 11.00am Mass in St Peter’s Church.

The discovery of the Trus Cross is dated to 14th September 320. The churches on Calvary were dedicated on the 13th September 355 and the cross that St Helena discovered was venerated there the next day. The annual commemoration of that event has been celebrated since, in praise of the redemption won for us by Christ.

The following **Area Masses** will take place in Our Lady of Lourdes Church: Pearse Park Mass, Monday 29th September 2025 at 7.30pm
Newfield Mass, Monday, 6th October 2025, at 7.30pm

Season of Creation with the theme, **Peace with Creation**, is celebrated, 1st September – 4th October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi), 2025. See catholicbishops.ie and seasonofcreation.org.

Culture Night, Friday 19th September, 7.30pm, Augustinian Church, Shop St, free event. **The True Story of the Horrid Popish Plot** by Desmond Forristal, marking **St Oliver Plunkett’s 400th Anniversary** of Birth, performed and read by members of Drogheda’s local drama groups with local musicians. Forristal presents the complex story of Oliver Plunkett’s trial and execution and the political machinations surrounding them in an accessible way. The production is co-produced and directed by Niall O’Brien, actor, and Michael Holohan, composer. The site of the Augustinian church and its car parks in Bachelor's Lane was the home for

St Oliver Plunkett's first integrated school for Catholic and Protestant boys 1670-1673. St Oliver also founded a small seminary for 50 student priests. Both institutions were run by the Jesuit order at the request of St. Oliver.

Midday Event Friday 19th September. The Tholsel (upstairs), Drogheda Tourist Office, West St, 12 noon- 1.00pm Admission Free. **St Oliver Plunkett and Ireland by Tommy Burns.**



TheWay.ie is a new digital platform set up by the Irish Bishops' Conference dedicated to sharing the 'Good News' and the witness of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is intended to help people discover the faith, live the faith and pass on the faith. It is for both seekers and followers. Use QR code to access the site

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 – 5.00pm (Tuesday to 7.00pm).

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sunday afternoon, 1.00pm – 4.00pm, except the First and Fourth Sunday of each month, when exposition does not take place.

All Masses are streamed live by webcam. www.sppd.ie or www.churchservices.tv (Drogheda).



Baptisms: Parents should 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 – 12 noon. 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.

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.

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 monthly intention for September:

For our relationship with all of creation: Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Parish Collection for the weekend of September 6th / 7th September 2025

Loose €1,465 Envelopes €1,300 Tap to Donate €556 Total €3,321

Sick and Retired Priests Collection €660.00

Autumn Dues for the support of the Priests of the Parish will be collected over the coming weeks. Many thanks for your great generosity, and to our collectors.

There will be a second envelope next weekend for **St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh** for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the Cathedral so that it might remain a centre of hope and prayer for generations to come.

Baptisms

*We welcome Éabha Brilly **into the Christian community.***

Deaths



We pray for the recently deceased** Sr Maura (Maria Rosa) Magner, MMM, Beechgrove, Fr James Gordon IC, Killineer and Florida, Gerry Levins, St Finian's Park, formerly Pearse Park, Geraldine Reynolds, Olive Lynn, Sheila Marie Belotindos, Alan Kenny. **May they rest in peace.

Drogheda Community Services provide a one-to-one Bereavement Counselling Service at Dermot Kierans Centre, Scarlet Crescent, Drogheda. Counsellors are available during the day and evenings. This is a free service. To make an appointment please call 041 983 6084 or email info@droghedacsc.net

Boyne TradFest: Experience Boyne TradFest in Drogheda from 19th – 21st September 2025, celebrating the very best of traditional Irish music with recitals, sessions, concerts and workshops. A highlight concert takes place on Saturday 20th September at 8.00pm in St. Augustine's Church, featuring Damien Mullane, Sean O'Meara, and Conor Broderick, joined by the incredible Nós Nua Youth Orchestra. Together, they will present an unforgettable evening showcasing the finest in traditional Irish music and song. Tickets €20/€10. Visit www.boynetradfest.ie for full festival programme and booking info.

A Remembrance Mass for Missing People and their Families

will be held in **St. Peter's Church**, West Street, on Sunday, 5th October at 3.00pm. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh. This is a poignant