

The Sunday and Holy Day / Christmas obligation remains suspended during the pandemic. Those who are vulnerable or unwell should obviously not come. Notwithstanding that both St Peter's and the Lourdes are very large churches, the numbers able to attend Mass are considerably reduced due to social distancing. Archbishop Eamon and Bishop Michael remind parishioners that Christmas is more than just one day, and people are welcome to attend Mass or visit the Crib at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January. All Masses will be streamed live by webcam on the parish website, saintpetersdrogheda.ie, and also on churchservices.tv (Drogheda).

Stewarding will be in place at all Masses and the churches will be sanitised after each Mass. A family or those from the same household / bubble can sit together, while those who come to Mass alone will require a place to themselves. In line with Government directives, all parishioners are asked to wear a face mask, unless medically unable to do so.

There will be a **special collection** at all Christmas Day Masses for the support of the priests of the Parish. Please note that there is a special envelope among your weekly collections envelopes. There is only one collection on Christmas Day.

As part of our **Christmas programme** we invite you to send a photo of the crib in your home to be displayed on our website and Facebook. Please send them via Facebook or by email toparishoffice@saintpetersdrogheda.ie. This is a lovely way to share the joy of Christmas from your home to others.

St Peter's Parish, Drogheda
Christmas 2020 / New Year 2021

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Masses

Christmas Eve Morning – Thursday 24th December

St Peter's Church No Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am

Christmas Vigil – Thursday 24th December

St Peter's Church 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 9.00pm & 11.00pm.

Christmas Day – Friday 25th December

St Peter's Church 8.00am, 11.00am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 9.00am, 10.30am & 12.00noon

Weekdays 26th December – 5th January

St Peter's Church 10.30am only

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 11.00am

Sundays – 27th December & 3rd January

St Peter's Church 6.15pm (Vigil), 8.00am, 11.00am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.30pm (Vigil), 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon

New Year's Day – Friday 1st January

St Peter's Church 12.00 noon

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 11.00am

Epiphany of the Lord – Wednesday 6th January

St Peter's Church 8.30am, 10.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am, 12.00noon, 7.30pm

St Peter's Parish Drogheda

Newsletter

www.saintpetersdrogheda.ie

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Fourth Sunday in Advent B

20th December 2020

Canon Eugene Sweeney PP, VG

Fr. Aidan Murphy PE, AP

Canon P. McDonnell

Fr. Barry Matthews CC

Fr. Paul Murphy 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 Sacristy

041 983 8537

041 983 8239

041 983 1899

041 984 5355

041 983 1973



Masses will be broadcast live by webcam

St Peter's Church

Monday to Friday: 8.30am.

Tuesday only, also St Anthony's

Novena, 10.30am.

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Sunday: 11.00am.



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Monday to Saturday: 10.00am.

Saturday Vigil: 7.30pm.

Sunday: 9.00am, 10.30am and 12 noon.

St Peter's Church Shop

Opening times: 11.00am – 2.00pm

Monday - Thursday:

Friday & Saturday 11.00am - 3.00pm

Email:

parishoffice@saintpetersdrogheda.ie

The Barbican,

St Peter's Parish Centre

041 980 7416

Thank You and Happy Christmas from the Parish Priest

What a remarkable year 2020 has been! Who would have guessed this time last year that things would unfurl in the world the way they have? This year ending has been very challenging for many - loneliness, isolation, sickness, death, employment and financial worries. A year truly like no other.

It's also been a year of gift and privilege. Despite the challenges there has been so much to uplift: the dedication of our frontline services, the neighbourliness during the worst of the pandemic. I am very grateful to our parishioners for their understanding during the lockdowns, and for their continued commitment to the Parish in so many ways, including financial, throughout the year.

I am always conscious of the wonderful support of all my colleagues, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance and Safeguarding Committees, and many other groups and individuals, including our stewards, too numerous to mention, who allow St Peter's Parish to continue to function and to be of service to the people of Drogheda.

With Canon Patsy, Fathers Paul, Aidan, whom we warmly welcome to the Parish, Barry, Deacons David and John, and Linda, our PPC Chair, I wish all our parishioners much peace and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year. May the light of the Christ-Child envelop us all, and may he guide our ways and path, and those of our loved ones, throughout 2021.

Eugene Sweeney, PP, VG



Advent Reflection Evenings - Join Fr Barry on Wednesday next, 23rd December for our final Advent reflection evening. This week unlike the previous evenings, you are welcome to join us in Our Lady of Lourdes Church as we look towards the Christmas Gospel, and reflect through song and prayer on this special celebration of our Faith. Our format will be similar to the previous weeks with the inclusion of Christmas. Carols as part of our time together. We will continue to stream live via our webcam.

Rosary, Exposition and Benediction this Sunday evening in St Peter's Church at **5.00pm**. Streamed live on webcam also.

The Newsletter will return on the weekend of 10th January 2021. Items for the Parish newsletter may be emailed to parishoffice@saintpetersdrogheda.ie or handed into the Parish Office by Wednesday evening each week.

St Peter's Church Shop now has a large range of Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards, Crib scenes and faith based gifts in stock. Please feel free to drop in and enjoy a browse:

Monday – Thursday 11.00am – 2.00pm, Friday & Saturday 11.00am – 3.00pm.

Signed Shared Mass Cards & Mass Bouquets (Christmas Mass Bouquets, Get Well, Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary, Exam, Healing, Intentions) are available in both sacristies. €4.00 each.

The **2021** parish weekly envelopes, together with the dues envelopes, are being distributed now. We thank parishioners in a special way for their continued generosity. Anyone wishing to receive weekly envelopes is asked to contact the sacristy or any of the priests. A heartfelt thank you to all the distributors.

Baptism

Our Lady of Lourdes Church every Saturday at 5.00pm. Register at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy, Friday and 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, West Street, Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 12.30pm. Tel 041 984 5355.

Novenas

Novena to St Martin de Porres – St Peter's Church, Monday, 10.30am Mass

Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal - Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monday 10.00am Mass,

St Peter's Church, Wednesdays, after 10.30am Mass

Novena to St Anthony of Padua – St. Peter's Church, Tuesday, 10.30am & 7.30pm Masses.

Novena to Our Lady of Fatima – St Peter's Church, Saturday, 10.30am Mass

Feast Days

Friday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday 26th December	St Stephen, first martyr
Sunday 27th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday 28th December	The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Friday 1st January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity
Wednesday 6th January	The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity

Deaths

We pray for the recently deceased Patrick Kirwan, St Peter's Terrace, Greenlanes, Kathleen McQuillan, Ballsbridge, Patricia (Patsy) McGrory, Maple Drive, Oliver McEnaney, Damien Tiernan, Sr Anne Curtin, MMM, Jim Balfie, Deirdre Sharkey, Frank Dunne, Alan O'Brien, Teresa Laffey, John O'Brien, Cinta Montague. *May they rest in peace. Amen.* 

The **Sacred Heart Messenger** is available for 2021. Please contact Dympna 086 272 6837 or Austin 087 930 7541.

Siena Convent: Cards, Candles and Crafts available to order from our **Online Shop** at the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena, The Twenties, Drogheda: Link: <https://www.dominicannuns.ie/online-shop.html>

St Vincent de Paul SVP is available as usual to help. Freephone 1800 67 77 77.

Drogheda River Rescue Emergency The men and women of Drogheda River Rescue are happy to reach out to all those who need help at this time. Tel 089 250 5562.

Senior Line is a free phone confidential listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers. The number for the service is 1800 80 45 91. The lines are open from 10:00am to 10:00pm, 365 days a year. It is important at this difficult time to be aware of those who are elderly or alone living among us, and to check discreetly on them from time to time.

St Peter's Parish Catholic Primary Schools 2021 Enrolment

Is your child starting school in September 2021? Common Application and Enrolment. Participating Schools: Presentation Primary School, St Brigid's and St Patrick's NS, St Joseph's CBS,

St Oliver's NS (all co-ed, i.e. boys and girls). Get your application form and explanatory notes from any of the school and return completed form to your school of first choice no later than 12.00 noon on Monday 1st February 2021, including Birth Certificate and proof of address, dated within three months of application (e.g. utility bill). Enrolment for St Ita's Special School and Gaelscoil, Scoil Aonghusa directly to the school.

Scoil Aonghusa

Application forms for Junior Infant pupils for September 2021 are now available from Scoil Aonghusa or on our website www.scoilaoighusa.com. Completed application forms to be returned to Scoil Aonghusa, Sunday's Gate Drogheda by 3.00pm on Friday 15th January. Contact details: 041 9832531 oifig.scoilaoighusa@gmail.com

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to 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**.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

A Carol Service in preparation for Christmas will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh today Sunday 20th December at 5.00pm, streamed live on the Cathedral Webcam, www.armaghparish.net

"A Family Christmas" will take place over webcam from St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm. It will be led by Archbishop Martin assisted by Karl McGuckin, Eilís Fox & Malachi Cush.

St Peter's Parish Reaches Out

The response to the Parish Christmas appeal for Drogheda Homeless Aid and Drogheda Women and Children's Refuge Centre has once again been very edifying, as has the response for the Mosney children. Throughout the year the Parish has been happy to be associated with St Vincent de Paul, Drogheda River Rescue, Connect Family Resource Centre, Moneymore, Boomerang, and the Red Door project.

Farewell to Sr Anne Spratt, FMDM, Laurence St, who has been transferred to Dublin. We thank Sr Anne for her six years of generous service in Drogheda, and wish her well in her new ministry in Whitehall.

Advent Confessions for Christmas

Confessions

No Penance Service due to Pandemic

Each Wednesday and Saturday to 23rd December: St Peter's Church 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Each Saturday evening to 19th December: St Peter's Church 5.45pm – 6.10pm &

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.00pm – 7.25pm

Due to the circumstances pertaining this year, many people will be unable or feel unready to come to Confession. Pope Francis suggests an **Act of Perfect Contrition**. How do we make an Act of Perfect Contrition? We come before God as we are. We reflect on his infinite love for us. We contemplate the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for our sins. We honestly recognise our sins and how they have betrayed the God who loves us. We make a firm commitment with the help of God's grace to make amends and not to sin again. We firmly resolve to go to Confession and receive the sacrament of reconciliation as soon as it is possible to do so.

Parishioners and friends who would like to leave a poinsettia in memory of a loved one are invited to do so in either church.

Christmas Masses

After consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, there is no **booking or ticketing system**. Seats will be offered on a first come basis, so please come early. Carols will be played before each Mass. A booking for an Anniversary Mass cannot guarantee seating at any of the Christmas Masses.

Last year we had three Christmas Eve Masses, but this year we have seven. The Christmas Day schedule follows the Sunday schedule. There will be no children's or family Mass this year, and all Masses are open to everyone. Many people will not feel ready to come out to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and this is perfectly understandable.