

envelope at the back of the churches. Details are also included here:

*By cheque* made payable to St Peter's Parish - Our Lady of Lourdes Church Upgrade

*By cash*

*By card* through the parish website, [www.sppd.ie](http://www.sppd.ie) (Donate Button; Purpose – General Parish Upkeep;

Message – Our Lady of Lourdes Church Upgrade), or through either church sacristy in person or by telephone, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 041 983 1973, St Peter's Church, 041 984 5355, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

*By electronic transfer:*

Account Name: St Peter's Parish Envelope Collection, Account Number: 35805507 Bank: AIB, Drogheda,

Bank Sort Code: 932094, IBAN: IE10 AIBK 9320 9435 8055 07

BIC: AIBKIE2D Reference: Donor's name, OLLC.

Many thanks to all those who make these necessary works possible, to those who have already contribute, and for your continued support of St Peter's Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

### Christmas 2023 / New Year 2024

#### ***The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Vigil - Sunday 24th December***

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm

St Peter's Church 5.00pm, 7.00pm, 9.00pm

#### ***The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Day - Monday 25th December***

St Peter's Church 8.00am, 11.00am

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

#### ***Weekdays 26th – 30th December***

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am

St Peter's Church 10.30am

#### ***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph***

##### ***Sunday 31st December***

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

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.00pm (Vigil), 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon

#### ***Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day – Monday 1st January***

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 11.00am

St Peter's Church 12.00 noon

#### **2nd January 2024 8.30am Mass resumes in St Peter's Church**

#### ***The Epiphany of the Lord –***

##### ***Saturday 6th January***

St Peter's Church 8.30am, 10.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.30pm (Vigil), 10.00am

#### ***Confessions post- Christmas will resume on 3rd January. Throughout the Year***

St Peter's Church, Wednesday & Saturday 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Both Churches, 30 minutes before Saturday Vigil Mass

***All Masses are streamed live by webcam.***

***[www.sppd.ie](http://www.sppd.ie) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) (Drogheda).***

## St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

### ***Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)***

24th December 2023

Canon Eugene Sweeney PP St Peter's Parochial House 041-9838537  
Fr Aidan Murphy PE, AP St Peter's Presbytery 041-9838239

Fr Cleophas Lunga, Priest in Residence  
Fr Desmond Branigan CC Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery 041-9831899

Fr Piotr Wojtala CC  
Deacons David Durrigan & John Taaffe

St Peter's Church Sacristy 041-9845355  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy 041-9831973

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

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

[X@PetersDrogheda](https://twitter.com/X@PetersDrogheda)



**Masses will be broadcast live by webcam**

#### **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 - 6.00pm.

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

#### **The Barbican,**

St Peter's Parish Centre

041 980 7416

#### **Thank You and Happy Christmas from the Parish Priest**

During the year as we emerged from Covid-19 we have thanked the Lord for the return to normality in so many ways. We have been grateful to be able to assemble without restriction in our churches to praise God. Nonetheless, 2023 has been very challenging for many - loneliness, isolation, sickness, death, housing, employment and financial worries. We hold all close to our hearts.

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, too numerous to mention, who assist and volunteer so generously, and who allow St Peter's Parish to continue to function, and to be of service to the people of Drogheda. I am very grateful to our parishioners for their continued commitment to the Parish, and the wider community in social outreach, in so many ways, including time, effort, and financial contribution, so freely given. The response to the Our Lady of Lourdes Church mechanical and electrical upgrade appeal has been wonderful.

Fr Larry Caraher, much loved former Curate of the Parish, was called to the Lord on 6th September, and remains very much with us in our thoughts and prayers, as do all our beloved dead, especially those who died in the past year. We look forward in hope to 2024, and dare to pray for a new openness throughout the world to the asylum issue, and for peace and justice, not least in Ukraine and the Holy Land. With Fathers Aidan, Des and Piotr, Deacons David and John, and Rocío Garcia, Chair, and the Parish Pastoral Council, 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 and our loved ones at home and abroad, may he grant us new faith, hope, love and courage, and guide our ways and paths at all times.

**Eugene Sweeney, PP**



The role of Mary in the Incarnation is celebrated. She is of that House of David Which God promised would be built according to his plan. The plan is revealed In Jesus Christ and is now made known to all peoples.

**The 7.30pm St. Anthony's Novena will not be held on Tuesday 26th December, St Stephen's Day. Novena prayers at 10.30am Mass as usual.**

#### Church Christmas Crib

The Christmas Crib is placed again this year on the Sanctuary, in both St Peter's and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches, to allow those at home watching by webcam, especially the sick and housebound, to see it. Straw from the Crib will be available at the foot of the sanctuary from Christmas Day for those who wish to take a spiritual memento home.

**Eucharistic Adoration** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter's Church is as follows: Monday and Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the main body of the church. Hours of Adoration are Monday to Friday, 11.00am – 4.00pm, (Tuesday to 7.00pm). **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday afternoon, 1.00pm – 4.00pm.


**God First St Peter's Youth Group** for teenagers 13-17 years old, meets on the first and third Friday of each month in the Family Room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Come along to encounter God, make new friends and have fun.



**Baptisms** Parents should please contact the sacristies to rearrange 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 Church 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) and **Drogheda River Rescue Emergency** (089 250 5562) continue 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

The **Parish Newsletter** is available at the back of the churches throughout the week. Also see church noticeboards, parish website and Visit our Parish X / Twitter account @PetersDrogheda 

#### Feast Days this week

Monday 25th December	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Tuesday 26th December	St Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday 27th December	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday 28th December	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

**Pope Francis' intention for December:** For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

#### Baptism

**We welcome** Jesse Thomas Moore and Nathen Dulkys *into the Christian community*

#### Deaths

**We pray for the recently deceased** Sr Marie (Martina) Walsh, PBVM, Mountmellick formerly Presentation Primary, Ballymakenny Road, Vera Molloy, late of Boyne Terrace, Chord Road, Jim Hatch, Bettystown, Canada & Forest Park, Thora Bailey, Glenmore Drive, John Kenny, Bridget (Bridie) Floyd, Fr Malachy Loughran, OSA, Alice Moran, Rosemary Gaughran, Lush Pepaj, Nicole Corcoran, Emily Coogan, Bart Gordon. **May they rest in peace.**



#### Parish Collection for the weekend of 16th/ 17th December 2023

Loose €1,570 Envelopes €1,535 Tap to Donate €296 **Total €3,401**

**The collection on Christmas Eve / Christmas Day is for the support of the priests of the Parish. Please use the envelope in your box. We are very grateful for your generosity.**

**The 2024 parish envelope** year commences on Sunday 7th January. Many thanks to our distributors. Anybody wishing to register for a box of envelopes may leave their name into the sacristy or the parish office.

#### Trócaire Help Children Caught in Conflict This Christmas

Imagine life for a child caught in a conflict zone this Christmas. No soap for cleaning and hygiene. No food for their bellies. No safe water to drink or place to rest their heads. Fragile, frightened. From Gaza to Ukraine, from Ethiopia to South Sudan right now, children and their families are enduring such suffering. They urgently need your help. Your compassionate support at this time will help rush survival kits, emergency dignity kits, and essential food baskets, as well as supporting critical work across Trócaire's global programmes. Please donate what you can on [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org) or over the phone by calling 1800 408 408 Support your local blood clinic!

**Give blood, save lives.** #WeCountOnYou. Tuesday 2nd January - Wednesday 3rd January, 2024 St. Mary's Primary School, Crossroute, Bryanstown. Thursday 4th January, 2024 St. Oliver's National School, Ballymakenny Road. Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th January, 2024 Tommy Leddy Theatre. All Clinics 4:00pm – 8:00pm. Call 1800 222 111 to book an appointment. Check your eligibility at [giveblood.ie](http://giveblood.ie)

**Are you or someone you know, living with a long-term health condition?** If so, then you may be interested in the 'Living Well Programme'. Living Well is a FREE, 6 week self-management group programme for adults living with long term health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart conditions, stroke and others to name but a few. There are spaces available on our JANUARY 2024 Programmes. Please contact Aine 041 6850676 / 087 1140371, Elaine 041 6860710 / 087 4308735 to book your place.

#### Our Lady of Lourdes Church Mechanical and Electrical Upgrade

**As of 21st December, 111 contributions, have been made amounting to €33,435.00. Many thanks for your great generosity.**

The total cost of the project is €281,000. €76,000 has been received by the Parish in grants leaving a total net cost of €205,000, greatly depleting parish resources. Though conscious of the difficult times financially, donations towards the project will gratefully be received from those wishing and able to do so, and may be made as outlined in the letter with donation