

Restoration of the Shrine of St Oliver Plunkett (1625 – 1681)

To mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of St Oliver Plunkett and the designation of St Peter's Church as a Jubilee Church in this Jubilee Year of Hope, after consultation with St Peter's Parish Finance Committee, St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council and St Patrick's Archdiocesan Trust Limited, restoration work has commenced at the St Oliver Plunkett shrine area of St Peter's Church aiming to create a homogenous prayerful space that honours the memory of the martyred Archbishop of Armagh, fosters a deeper spiritual connection for pilgrims, and preserves the historical and architectural integrity of the church. The design draws inspiration from St Oliver's life of faith, his commitment to reconciliation, and his embodiment of the Communion of Saints.

Key elements include the following: the replacement of the flooring with a continuous tiled design, fostering a sense of unity; the introduction of a brass baldachin featuring flame-shaped panels, symbolising the Holy Spirit at work in and through St Oliver; retention and restoration of the 1995 freestanding spired metal structure housing the relic of the head, enhancing its craftsmanship and lighting to serve as the focal point of the space; relocating of additional relics to new wall-mounted reliquaries adjacent to the main shrine; the use of soft, diffused lighting to highlight the shrine's elements and to create an inviting, contemplative atmosphere; the installation of educational displays exploring St Oliver's life with themes of perseverance and reconciliation; the introduction of comfortable kneelers and purposeful seating. The revitalised shrine will embody the Catholic tradition of the Communion of Saints, providing pilgrims with a sacred space that fosters unity with the saints and offers spiritual strength.

The Shrine area will be cordoned off while restoration works are ongoing. St Oliver's head will be temporarily housed in the Sacred Heart altar area of St Peter's Church. It is hoped that the works will be completed by the end of June. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Prayer to St Oliver Plunkett 400th Anniversary of Birth, 1625 - 2025



Glorious Martyr St Oliver, who willingly gave your life for your faith, help us also to be strong in faith. May we be loyal like you to the See of Peter. By your intercession and example, may all hatred and bitterness be banished from the hearts of men and women. May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, as it did in your heart, even at the moment of your death.

Pray for us, for Ireland and the whole world. 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 Wednesday each week.

St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Third Sunday of Easter

4th May 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

041 983 8537

041 983 8239

Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery

041 983 1899

St Peter's Church Sacristy

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy

041 984 5355

041 983 1973

www.sppd.ie

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

We thank the Lord for the wonderful ministry of Pope Francis. As Cardinal Re said in his funeral homily, we can pray to God through Pope Francis's intercession. We ask the Lord to bless the Cardinals as they gather in Conclave on Wednesday. May the Holy Spirit be with them.

Monday 5th May is a **Bank Holiday**, no 8.30am Mass in St Peter's Church. Mass as usual at 10.00am in Our Lady of Lourdes and at 10.30am in St Peter.



All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
With that world of good,
Nature's motherhood.
Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.

This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

'May Magnificat' Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

The Barbican

St Peter's Parish

Centre

041-980 7416



We wish all those who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation during this month every blessing.

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).

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sunday afternoon, 1.00pm – 4.00pm, except the First 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 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 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.

God First St Peter's Youth Group for teenagers 13-17 years old meets on the second and fourth 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.

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.

St Vincent de Paul church gate collection this weekend.

Parish Collections

18th April **Good Friday** Collection for the **Holy Land** €1,190

19th/20th April (**Easter Sunday**) 2025

Envelopes €1,425. Easter Collection for Priests of the Parish €6,003.

Parish Collection for the weekend of 26th/27th April 2025

Loose €1,623 Envelopes €1,260 Tap to Donate €643 Total €3,526

Divine Mercy Sunday Collection: €1,000

Baptism

We welcome Jude Clark *into the Christian community.*

Deaths



We pray for the recently deceased Charlie Farrell, Hand Street, Sr Kathleen Crawley MMM, Beechgrove, Lena English, Glenview, Niall Carter, Dyer Street formerly Ashfield Crescent, Dan McCann, Forest Hill, Tony O'Brien, Marley Court formerly Yellowbatter, Joe Martin, Eamonn Leech, Jack Sheils, Donal Floyd, Rhoda McDonnell. **May they rest in peace.**

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society. An **Hour of Adoration and Prayer** for vocations to the priesthood and religious life will be held on Sunday 11th May in Our Lady of Lourdes Church from 3.00pm - 4.00pm. All are welcome.

March for Life: We're making progress! Let's keep moving forward. Dublin, Monday 5th May at 2.00pm, commencing from Newman's University Church side of St Stephen's Green.

Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season: The Three -Day Pilgrimage for 2025 begins on Friday 30th May, and continues until Friday 15th August (last day to begin pilgrimage is Wednesday 13th August).

One Day Retreats on selected dates in May: Sunday 4th, Monday 5th, Sunday 11th, Tuesday 13th, Saturday 17th, Saturday 24th, and Monday 26th. Further details on www.loughderg.org

Lough Derg One Day Retreat: Saturday 17th May, leaving from Dundalk.

Knock Pilgrimage 22nd June, Sacred Heart Crusade 2025 Jubilee Year. Enquiries 085 1833 110.

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

Scoil Aonghusa – Drogheda's Gaelscoil since 1981. Applications for new Junior Infant pupils for September 2025 are now available from Scoil Aonghusa or on our website www.scoilaonghusa.com Completed application forms to be returned to Scoil Aonghusa, Sunday's Gate, Drogheda A92 PY18. Contact details: 041 983 2531 oifig.scoilaonghusa@gmail.com

Cemetery Sunday will take place as usual on the last Sunday of June, this year, Sunday 29th June, in St Peter's Cemetery at 3.00pm and Newtown Cross at 5.00pm.