

**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.

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

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](mailto: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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Good Shepherd Sunday, Day of Prayer for Vocations**

11<sup>th</sup> 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 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



We ask the Lord's blessing on **Pope Leo XIV** as he begins his ministry as Bishop of Rome. We beg the Lord to guide our new Holy Father and bless him with courage, strength and wisdom. May he lead us all in the paths of faith, hope and love. We congratulate Fr Colm and all at St Augustine's on the election to the See of Peter of their Augustinian brother.

Today is **Vocation Sunday**. There is a second envelope today. This envelope goes primarily towards the tuition and accommodation fees of students preparing for the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and those lay faithful in vocational on-going formation in the Archdiocese of Armagh. We currently support twenty students for the priesthood in Maynooth and at our own Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in Dundalk, all preparing to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Armagh.

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

**Rosary and Benediction** will be held in St Peter's Church at 5.00pm each Sunday during May.



**Best of luck to Co. Louth** in Croke Park today.  
**Lú abú.**



## Day of Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, you made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to Priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering comforted, and your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Pope Francis**

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

## Feast Days this week

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

St Matthias, Apostle

## Parish Collection for the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Loose €1,290 Envelopes €1,293 Tap to Donate €492 Total €3,075

**There is a second envelope next weekend for the Armagh Central Diocesan Fund.**

This envelope goes towards the running of the Diocesan Curia in Armagh, its safeguarding, youth, and pastoral offices, and its initiatives, including the Synodal Way.

## Baptism

**We welcome** Noah Fitzsimons, Christopher Kanja Nganga and Lainey May Brannigan **into the Christian community.**

## Deaths



**We pray for the recently deceased** Charlie Farrell, Sr Kathleen Crawley MMM, Lena English, Niall Carter, Dan McCann, Tony O'Brien, Joe Martin, Eamonn Leech, Jack Sheils, Donal Floyd. **May they rest in peace.**

**The Annual Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock** will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Coach departs from Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 7.45am sharp. Cost per person €25. Early booking is advised as there is a limited number of seats available. Contact Damien on 083 3504 551 or Jacqueline on 087 160 7287 for booking.

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

**One Day Retreats** on selected dates in May: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, and Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. Further details on [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

**All Ireland Rosary Rally Knock Shrine.** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025. A bus has been organised to leave from the Holy Family Church, Ballsgrove at 7.00am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, cost €27 per person. Booking details from Mary McNally on 087 676 1878.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:oifig.scoilaonghusa@gmail.com)