

RICA/OCIA Programme The RCIA/OCIA Programme (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) offers a welcoming pathway for adults who wish to: learn more about the Catholic faith; prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist; deepen their relationship with God and the Church. Beginning on Thursday 11th September at 7.00pm, St. Patrick’s Church, Dundalk. All welcome – whether you are beginning your journey of faith, returning after time away, or simply searching for meaning and community.

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**, Drogheda Tourist Office, West St, 12 noon- 1.00pm Admission Free. **St Oliver Plunkett and Ireland** by Tommy Burns.

Remembrance Mass for Missing Persons will be celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin on Sunday 5th October at 3.00pm in St. Peter’s Church. All welcome.

Celtic Prayers

Dear Lord, give me a few friends who will love me for what I am, and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope... And though I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me to be thankful for life, and for time’s olden memories that are good and sweet. And may the evening’s twilight find me gentle still.

Bless those minding cattle, and those minding sheep, and those fishing the sea while the rest of us sleep. May the rains sweep gentle across your fields, May the sun warm the land, may every good seed you have planted bear fruit, and late summer find you standing in fields of plenty.

And if God sends you down a stony path, may he give you strong shoes.

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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7th 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

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

40 Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St John Paul II Room, starting Friday coming, 12th September, 6.00am and concluding Saturday 13th September, 10.00pm. Intentions include: All living and deceased priests; vocations to priesthood and religious life; peace and harmony in the world. Those wishing to sign up for an hour should please contact Josie on 087 771 0264.

God First Youth Group Open Night on Friday next, 12th September, 6.00 - 8.00pm in the family room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Come along to meet the team and learn more about our Youth Group! Sign-up on the evening.

The **Irish Bishops** last month issued a **Pastoral Message, *Why Sunday Matters*** – an Invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass. **The Message**, an introductory video and a four- part video series entitled, *Sunday Mass – Digging Deeper*, are available at CatholicBishops.ie All Catholics are invited to reflect on the immense significance of Sunday Mass and, for those who no longer attend, to return with renewed joy to the celebration of the Eucharist.

The **8.30am weekday Mass**, Monday to Friday, has recommenced after the summer break in St Peter’s Church.

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.

A blessing for Creation Bless us, + in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As we go forth with joy and hope to care for God's creation, – walking gently on the earth, – in right relationship, – nurtured by your Love, – taking only what we need, – giving back to the earth in gratitude, – honouring all with reverence, – reconciling and healing, – mindful of those who will come after, and of the poor today – recognising our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation. Ignite your Spark within us, that we may know ourselves as truly human and irrevocably part of the Web of Life (Pope Francis, Laudato Si)

All families and young people are invited to a celebration marking **the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati** today, Sunday 7th September in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. 10:00am, Prayer Walk in the Cathedral Grounds. 11:00am, Mass in the Cathedral.

The Way, a digital multi-media forum established by the Irish Bishops to share the Good News, TheWay.ie

Next 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.

St Peter's Church Eucharistic Adoration Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Peter's Church is as follows: Monday - Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (including Wednesday due to restoration work at St Oliver's Shrine). 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.

St Vincent de Paul monthly church gate collection will be taken up this weekend.

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.

Feast days this week

Monday 8th September

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Parish Collection for the weekend of August 30th/31st 2025

Loose €1,522 Envelopes €1,215 Tap to Donate €724 Total €3,461

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.

Baptisms

We welcome Esmeé Evelyn Sweeney, Thady Matthew Twomey McElroy, Éala Rose Maeve O'Heiligh Kavanagh, Sadie Tuite, Quinn Penelope Jarina, Carlota Isabel Isturiz Fuentes, Gustavo Alonso Isturiz Fuentes, Mason Mikucionis, Isabella Bonnie McDonnell, Karolis Junior Sabaliuskas, Isla Reilly McConville, Lottie Peggy Anglim, Joey James O'Sullivan Dunne, Harry John Robert Grogan, Jude Thomson, Olivia Felicity Leddy, Keanoleigh O'Connor, Neill Denis Cummins, Nina Caoimhe Cummins, Iris Maryam Teresa Haughey Dillon, Shane Ward Cunningham and David Andrew Cunningham **into the Christian community.**

Deaths

We pray for the recently deceased Geraldine Reynolds, Rosevale, formerly Yellowbatter, Olive Lynn, Rathmullen Park formerly Windmill Lane, Sheila Marie Belotindos, Newtown Wood, Alan Kenny, Moneymore, Sam Somerville, Pearse Park, Pat McDonnell, Rathmullen Road, Gerry Conlon, Hand Street, Colm Hoey, Marley's Lane, Kathleen Leech, Hardman's Gardens, Mary Coogan, Chord Road, Emma Rafferty, Carndonagh formerly Forest Grange, Ben Floyd, Scarlet Crescent, Gabrielle Murphy, Brookside Lodge, Brian A Nolan, Matson Lodge, James Beatty, Yellowbatter, Kevin Corcoran, Mayfield, Mary McDonnell, Mary Ross, Mellifont Park, Elizabeth McGuinness, Matson Lodge. **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