

St Peter's Parish, Drogheda
Christmas 2025 / New Year 2026
Masses

Christmas Eve – Wednesday morning 24th December

St Peter's Church 10.30am only

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am

*** Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Eve / Vigil Wednesday 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 Thursday 25th December**

St Peter's Church 8.00am, 11.00am

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

*See page 2 for Music at various Christmas Masses

Weekdays: 26th - 31st December

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am

St Peter's Church 10.30am (Tuesday also 7.30pm)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Sunday 28th 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 – Thursday, 1st January

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 11.00am

St Peter's Church 12.00 noon

The Epiphany of the Lord - Tuesday 6th January

St Peter's Church 8.30am, 10.30am

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

CONFESSIONS

Penance Service – Monday 22nd December, Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.30pm

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

St Peter's Church 12.00 noon – 2.00pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 12.00 noon – 2.00pm

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 or www.churchservices.tv

Come and join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus.

St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle A

21st December 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

Thank You and Happy Christmas from the Parish Priest

As we come to the end of another year, I am aware of the many reasons for gratitude. I am 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. The contribution of our schools, national and secondary, is immeasurable. I am also very grateful to our parishioners for their continued commitment to the Parish and to the wider community in social outreach, in so many ways, including time, effort, and financial contribution, so freely given.

With the Universal Church we have celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025 and have been very happy that St Peter's Church was designated by Archbishop Eamon Martin as a Jubilee Church. 2025 was also a very significant year as we marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of St Oliver Plunkett whose head we are honoured to preserve in St Peter's Church. Many thanks to the St Oliver Plunkett 400 Committee for the wonderful and generous leadership through so many events and initiatives. In 2025 we also marked the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of St Oliver whose national shrine in St Peter's Church was restored, and of the death of Mother Mary Martin, MMM, two remarkable Pilgrims of Hope.

We continue to look forward in hope, and dare to pray for peace and justice, nationally, locally and throughout the world, not least in Central and East Africa, Ukraine, the Middle East and the Holy Land; the plight of the suffering peoples of the world is very much in our thoughts and prayers.

The Prophet Isaiah wisely decreed: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end" (9: 6-7). 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. May we be signs of the Lord's love and care for the lonely, isolated, sick, bereaved and newcomer, and for those struggling with housing, employment, financial and many other kinds of worry and anxiety.

With Fathers Aidan, Des and Piotr, Deacons David and John, and Rocio Garcia, Chair, and the Parish Pastoral Council, I wish all our parishioners much peace and joy this Christmas and throughout 2026.

Eugene Sweeney, PP

The **Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal** with some friends, will sing **Christmas Carols** outside St Peter's Church tomorrow, Monday 22nd December, 1.30pm – 2.30pm. They invite people to come and pray with them.



Music at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

Christmas Eve: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 4.00pm, Eimear King; 6.00pm, Lourdes Youth Choir; 8.00pm, Barry and Noleen. St Peter's Church, 7.00pm, St Peter's Male Voice Choir.

Christmas Day: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 10.30am, Lourdes Youth Choir; 12 noon, Barry & Noleen. St Peter's Church, 11.00am, St Peter's Male Voice Choir.

Our 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. 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.

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.

Baptisms: 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 -12noon. 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.

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 Peter's Church Shop has a large range of Advent Calendars, Crib scenes, Christmas Cards, Christmas Mass Bouquets, and faith-based gifts in stock. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Parish Collection for the weekend of 13th/14th December 2025

Loose €1,895 Envelopes €1,610 Tap to Donate €748 Total €4,253

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 **2026 parish envelope year** commences on **Sunday 4th January**. Many thanks to the volunteer distributors. Anybody wishing to register for a box of envelopes may leave one's name with the sacristy or contact the parish office.

Baptism

We welcome Meidhbhin Caoimhe Anna Byrne ***into the Christian community***

Deaths



We pray for the recently deceased Ita Cunningham Kennedy (nee Carr), Clogherhead, formerly Peter St, George Floyd, Rita McAuley, Ciaran O'Rourke, Money more, Teresa Lidster, Yellowbatter, John Donnelly, Leontia Kierans, Susan McGuigan. ***May they rest in peace.***

Drogheda Community Services provide a one-to-one Bereavement Counselling Service at Dermot Kierans Centre, Scarlet Crescent, Drogheda. To make an appointment please call 041 983 6084 or email info@droghedacsc.net

Fr Paul Clayton-Lea sold 160 copies of his new publication, 'Further Up and Deeper In' on the Belfast writer C. S. Lewis and his links with by Co. Louth at last weekend's Masses. The book includes a unique account of Christmas and is available in St. Peter's Parish shop, price €10. Fr Paul is very grateful for the huge support and a contribution has been made to Trócaire.

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, 6week self-management group programme for adults living with long term health conditions. Spaces on the programme in the Barbican Centre, Drogheda are available, starting Monday 19th January, 10.30am – 1.00pm for 6 weeks. To book your place please contact Aine 041 685 0676 / 087 114 0371, Elaine 041 686 0710 / 087 430 8735.

The **Parish Newsletter** is available at the back of the churches throughout the week. return on the weekend of **11th January 2025**. Items for the Parish Newsletter, may be emailed to office@sppd.ie or handed into the Parish Office by Wednesday evening each week.