

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 will commence next week 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.

To facilitate restoration works, the Shrine area will be cordoned off. St Oliver's head will be temporarily housed in the Sacred Heart chapel area of St Peter's Church. It is hoped that the works will be completed by the end of June. Apologies for the inconvenience.

	St Peter's Church	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Monday 21st - Saturday 26 th April	10.30am Mass (No 8.30am weekday Mass) Tuesday St Anthony's Novena 7.30pm	10.00am Mass
	No Confessions on Wednesday 23rd April Confessions on Saturday 26 th April, 12.30pm – 1.00pm	
Sunday 27 th April Divine Mercy Sunday	Exposition, Chaplet, Prayers & Confessions. 3.00pm. Mass 4.00pm	

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

St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection

20th April 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

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

Easter Message to Parishioners 2025

Each Easter we dare to profess our spiritual freedom – our liberty as redeemed sons and daughters of God. Through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus we are born anew, and no earthly power or dominion can imprison us.

The Resurrection of Jesus of Easter Day signifies eternal victory over death, darkness and despair. The light of the resurrected Jesus will always have the last word, and his light is our light. In the life of the Risen One we all have life, and this is our hope. We do not succumb to despair, but are an Easter people, singing Alleluia as our chorus, Alleluia being a Hebrew word meaning "Praise God!"

2025 is a special year of Easter joy for St Peter's Parish as we 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. With the clergy, Parish Pastoral Council and Pastoral Area Resource Team, I wish all our parishioners and their loved ones, at home and abroad, peace, health, and joy this Easter. I ask the Lord to comfort those who have lost loved ones, and to help those who are sick, lonely, anxious, isolated, and all those who face housing, employment and financial uncertainty. In a special way we ask the Easter Lord to be with the people of the Holy Land, Ukraine, East Africa, Myanmar, and all the other troubled parts of the world. May the Risen Lord continue to be with us. In him we trust.

Eugene Sweeney, PP

Bottles of Easter Holy Water available in both churches from the Easter Vigil/ Easter Sunday. Many thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council for organising this initiative.

Trócaire boxes may be returned to the designated box in either church during Easter Week.

The April **Family Mass** will be celebrated next Sunday 27th April in Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 10.30am.

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.

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.

Pope Francis' intention for April: For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Parish Collection for the weekend of

12th/13th April 2025

Loose €1,548 Envelopes €1,390 Tap to donate €674 Total €3,612

Deaths

We pray for the recently deceased Joe Martin, Riverbank, Eamonn Leech, Jack Sheils, Donal Floyd, Rhoda McDonnell, Robert Black, Karl Vogelaar, Pauline O'Neill, Thomas Kerr. ***May they rest in peace.***



Baptism

We welcome Juancho Isaac Binuya and Amelia Lily McMahon ***into the Christian community.***

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society

The society's monthly meeting will be held in Our Lady of Lourdes Presbytery on Thursday 24th April at 10.30am. New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret on 086 602 4982 for further information.

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.

The **Drogheda Civic Trust**, with the support of Louth County Council, is delighted to announce a **Festival of Drogheda History** — a new series of public history seminars to take place throughout 2025, celebrating the rich and diverse heritage of Drogheda and its wider historical context. The festival will consist of three major seminars, beginning with **Oliver Plunkett in Historical Context** on Saturday 3rd May 2025, at St. Peter's Church of Ireland Parish Hall, Peter St, Drogheda. The event will open with a welcome from the Mayor of Drogheda, Cllr. Paddy McQuillan, and will feature a distinguished panel of speakers including Dr. Paul Smith (Trinity College), Dr. Eamon Darcy (Maynooth University), Dr. Annaleigh Margey (Dundalk Institute of Technology), Rev Iggy O'Donovan OSA, and Sean Collins of the Drogheda Civic Trust. Admission is free and the event begins at 10.00am. All are welcome.

The annual **May Day Procession**, marking its Golden Jubilee in 2025, honouring Our Lady of Fatima and St Joseph the Worker will take place on Thursday, 1st May, assembling at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 6.45pm, processing via Bóthar Brugha, George's Street, and West Street, to arrive at St Peter's Church for Mass at 7.30pm.

The Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) in Drogheda will host their inaugural **"Flowers, Food and Fun Festival"** in the Auditorium, Beechgrove, on Saturday 3rd May, 10.00am – 3.00pm featuring art and craft, ice cream, cakes and food truck vendors. Admission free. There will be talks and demos to help people grow their own food and learn more about sustainability. The Loving Life Children's choir will also perform. A great day out for families and people of all ages. Free parking will be available at Our Lady of Lourdes church beside the venue.

Lough Derg One Day Retreat 5th May 2025. Further details from Mary 086 403 2364/ 041 685 1754 or Rose 086 845 8808/ 041 982 2504. Bus from Drogheda and Monasterboice.

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.