

St Peter's Parish, Drogheda  
Christmas 2024 / New Year 2025

Masses

**Christmas Eve** – Tuesday morning 24<sup>th</sup> December

St Peter's Church 10.30 only

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am

**\*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Eve / Vigil** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

St Peter's Church 8.00am, 11.00am

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

**Weekdays: 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 – Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 11.00am

St Peter's Church 12.00 noon

**The 8.30am Mass resumes in St Peter's Church on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.**

**The Epiphany of the Lord** - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

St Peter's Church 8.30am, 10.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10.00am, 7.30pm

**CONFESSIONS**

**Penance Service – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Our Lady of Lourdes Church 7.30pm**

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 **resuming on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**All Masses are streamed live by webcam, [www.sppd.ie](http://www.sppd.ie) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)**

**St Peter's Parish Newsletter**

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 (Sunday Cycle Year C)

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](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

**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 look forward to the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. Next year is also a very significant year as we mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St Oliver Plunkett whose head we are honoured to preserve in St Peter's Church. In 2025 we also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonisation of St Oliver and of the death of Mother Mary Martin, MMM, two remarkable Pilgrims of Hope. We too look forward in hope, and dare to pray for peace and justice, nationally, locally and throughout the world, not least in East Africa, Ukraine, the Middle East and the Holy Land; the plight of the people of Gaza, Lebanon and Syria is very much in our thoughts and prayers.

As we await the formation of a new government in Ireland, we are conscious of the ultimate Government: "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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end." (Isaiah 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, 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 the new year. **Eugene Sweeney, PP**

**The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal** with some friends, will sing **Christmas Carols** outside St Peter's Church tomorrow, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1.30pm – 2.30pm. They invite people to pray with them.



**\*Music at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses\*** will be as follows:

**Christmas Eve:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 4.00pm, Eimear King; 6.00pm, Lourdes Youth Choir; 8.00pm, Barry and Noeleen.

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 & Noeleen.

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:** 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.

**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.

The **December SVP** church gate collection at Our Lady of Lourdes Church amounted to €1752.60 Grateful thanks to all who contributed.

**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 the

wonderful volunteers who give of their time in the shop.

**The Parish Newsletter** is available at the back of the churches throughout the week. Also see church noticeboards, parish website, Facebook, X and Instagram. The Newsletter will return on the weekend of **12th 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.*

**Pope Francis' intention for December:** For Pilgrims of Hope. Let us pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**Parish Collection for the weekend of 14th /15th December 2024**

Loose €1,705 Envelopes €1,470 Tap to donate €397 Total €3,572

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 **2025 parish envelope year** commences on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. Many thanks to the volunteer distributors. Anybody wishing to register for a box of envelopes may leave one's name into the sacristy or the parish office.

#### **Baptism**

**We welcome** Roko Rozic *into the Christian community*

#### **Deaths**



**We pray for the recently deceased** Jeremiah (Jerry) Healy, Harmony Heights, Sr Lucia Lynch MMM, Beechgrove, Berni Moore, Carrickmacross formerly Moneymore, Bobby McDonnell, Greenhills, May O'Donnell, Forest Hill, Elizabeth (Ena) O'Hare, Annmarie Reynolds, Jennifer McGuirk, Barbara Dyas, Anne Hoey. **May they rest in peace**

**The Medical Missionaries of Mary** will mark the 50th Anniversary of the death of Mother Mary Martin on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A celebration of the life of Mother Mary will be held in The Auditorium, Beechgrove Convent from 2.00pm – 5.00pm. The MMM Sisters look forward to seeing you on the day.

**St Peter's Parish Medjugorje Pilgrimage** Join us on this independent pilgrimage from 29th April to 6th May 2025. Early booking deposit of €50 to avail of prices from €545 for 7 nights, half board accommodation per person sharing, flights included. Daily programme with spiritual director and music ministry. Led by Fr Eugene Sweeney, PP, Deacons John Taaffe and Pat Butterly. Contact 089 615 2568 for further details.

**Legion of Mary, New Year's Eve Vigil from 11.00pm to 1.00am.** Holy hour and music followed by Mass at 12midnight. St. Joseph's Church, Mell. Celebrant Fr Piotr Wojtala. All welcome.