

Anyone wishing to receive a weekly envelope or who would like to contribute via standing order is asked to contact the sacristy or any of the priests.

Drogheda COPD Support Group monthly meeting takes place in the Barbican Centre on Friday next 6th December 2024, from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. Light refreshments are served and all are welcome to attend. Exercise classes take place every Monday (with the exception of Bank Holidays) from 12.00noon to 1.00pm in The Barbican Centre, Drogheda. The classes are free of charge, you do not have to suffer with COPD to participate, all are welcome! For further details contact Peter (087 807 1138) or Oliver (083 415 6104).

Advent Taize Gathering All are welcome to "Prayer around the Cross" in candlelight, with Taize chants, remembering your intentions. Friday 6th December at 8.00pm. Refreshments afterwards. "Bethany", 34 Point Road, Dundalk. A91 WOC 9 Tel. 042-933 1602.

St Peter's Male Voice Choir "Keep It Christmas"



Musical Director Edward Holly. Compere Gerry Kelly. With international guests; Celine Byrne, Soprano, violinist Jennifer Murphy and a live band of some of Ireland's top musicians. A magical evening not to be missed! Saturday 14th December at 8.00pm in St Peter's Church, West Street. Tickets €25, no booking fee, available from St Peter's Church Sacristy and Shop, Paddy Davis 087 201 9166, Liam Kelly 086 311 5114 or Credit Card purchase 087 220 7383. www.eventbrite.ie

A Carol Service featuring the students of Our Lady College, Greenhills with guests Donal Lunny & Andy Irvine will take place in the Augustinian Church on Wednesday 18th December at 8.00pm. The Carol service entitled, **Peace, Love, Hope and Joy**, promises to be a night to remember. Tickets are: €12.00 per adult, €6.00 per child/OAP or family of 4 for €30.00. These may be purchased from Our Lady's Greenhills, the Augustinian Church shop, or by calling Fidelma on 087 612 9601

Christmas Appeal Once again St Peter's Parish is supporting **Drogheda Women's & Children's Refuge** and **Drogheda Homeless Aid** in their Christmas appeals. Items such as non-perishable food and toiletries are needed at this time. Please donate into the boxes provided in both St Peter's and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches by Sunday 15th December. Thank you.

Give comfort and joy this Christmas with **Trócaire Gifts of Change**. To order by phone call 1800 408 408. www.trocaire.org

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.

St Peter's Parish Newsletter

St Oliver's Pastoral Area

First Sunday of Advent

1st 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 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



The Advent wreath with the progressive lighting of its four candles, Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of Justice (Mal 3: 20, Lk 1:78).

Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope:

waiting – memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh; *waiting* – supplication for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and Universal Judge;

conversion, to which the liturgy at this time often refers quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Mt3:2)

joyful *hope* that the salvation already accomplished by Christ and the reality of grace in the world will mature and reach their fullness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and 'we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is' (Jn 3:2)

St Peter's Parish & Apostles of Love

Advent Vigil, - Hope & Healing Darkness into Light

"Heal me O Lord, and I will be healed; Save me and I will be saved" Jeremiah 17:14 Adoration, Music & Reflections, Prayers of Healing, Anointing of the Sick. Led by Deacons John Taaffe and Pat Butterly. Wednesday 11th December in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

Week of Prayer for Vocations 1st - 8th December 2024. The Archdiocesan

Vocations Commission invites parishes to join with them in a week of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood in the Archdiocese of Armagh. As we begin the new Church-year we pray that those called to serve the Church within the Archdiocese will answer with generous hearts, courage and zeal. Looking forward to the Jubilee Year of Hope we are reminded of Pope Francis' message for the 2024 World Day of Prayer for Vocations where he refers to priests as Pilgrims of Hope and Builders of Peace. A led Holy Hour for Vocations with music and Benediction will be held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on **Sunday 8th December** at 3.00pm.

Armagh Diocesan Vocations Director is Fr Barry Matthews, Administrator 00 44 28 3752 2802, barrymatthews@gmail.com www.armaghpriest.com

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, today Sunday 1st December, when exposition does not take place.

All Masses are streamed live by webcam. www.sppd.ie or www.churchservices.tv (Drogheda).

Confessions are held as follows:

St Peter's Church, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12.30–1.00pm;
Saturday evening in both churches 30 minutes before the Vigil Mass.

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.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas church gate collection will be taken up this weekend. Local needs are great. The St Vincent de Paul November church gate collection at Our Lady of Lourdes Church amounted to €982.80. Many thanks to all who contributed.

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 Wednesday evening each week.*

Many thanks to the family who, some time back, donated a beautiful statue of St Michael the Archangel to St Peter's Church. The statue was blessed at the 6.15pm Mass on Saturday 30th November.

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.

Tuesday 3rd December is **International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2024**.

The theme this year is, Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an inclusive and substantive Future.

Friday 6th December is the **First Friday** of the month. The clergy will visit the sick in accordance with Government and diocesan norms, but only after consultation with the person concerned or their family. Please contact the parish office, either sacristy or any priest if you or your loved one would like a visit.

The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited after the 10.00am Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church each First Friday.

The monthly Mass in honour of the **Sacred Heart (Pioneer Association)** will be celebrated on Friday at 10.30am in St Peter's Church.

First Saturday **Fatima Devotions** in St Peter's Church after the 10.30am Mass on Saturday.

Men's Rosary on the first Saturday of each month at 12.00noon in the Augustinian Church Garden, Shop Street.

Deaths



We pray for the recently deceased Barbara Dyas, Yellowbatter, Anne Hoey, Newtownstalaban, Peggy Donnelly, Alan Doyle, David Hanan, Julia Robinson, Jacqueline (Jackie) Skelly-Holdcroft, Raymond Wolfe, Fintan McGuinness, Bartle (Bernard) Crean, Sr Paula Mary George O.P. **May they rest in peace**

Parish Collection for the weekend of 23rd/ 24th November 2024

Loose €1,547 Envelopes €940 Tap to donate €457 Total €2,944

Christmas Dues will be collected in the coming weeks. The 2025 parish envelopes boxes will also be distributed along with the parish Christmas card. Many thanks to our distributors. We thank parishioners in a special way for your continued generosity.