



Declaration

In accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (2) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended).

Louth County Council:

This declaration specifies what works would, or would not, in the opinion of the planning authority materially affect the character of the protected structure, or any element thereof, and, as a result, require planning permission. Under the Act, protection extends to the entire structure including its interior and the land lying within its curtilage. It also extends to any other structures lying within the curtilage of the protected structure, to their interiors and to all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Where specified in the Record of Protected Structures, protection may also extend to any other feature within the attendant grounds of the protected structure.

Nothing in this declaration exempts works that would not otherwise be exempt from a requirement for planning permission. Changes of use or intensification of the current use may require planning permission. If in doubt, the owner/occupier should consult the planning authority for further advice before commencing any works.

This Declaration may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for review within 4 weeks of its issue, upon payment of the requisite fee in accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (8) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Applicant Name:	Canon E Sweeney PP VG		
Status (i.e. Owner or Occupier):	Owner		
Date of Request for Declaration:	8 th May 2025	Date of Inspection:	23 rd May 2025
Date of Issue of Declaration:	25 th July 2025	Previous Declarations:	None

Address:		Location:	
Name of Building:	St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church	National Grid co-ordinates:	E N
Address 1:	West Street	O.S. Map Type:	
Address 2:	Drogheda	Map Sheet:	
Address 3:	Co. Louth	Site Number:	
Eircode:	A92 A086		

Protection Status:	Y / N		Details:
Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)			
Record of Protected Structures:	Y ✓	N	Louth RPS DB-247
Architectural Conservation Area:	Y ✓	N	
Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)			
Record of Monuments and Places:	Y ✓	N	
Zone of Archaeological potential:	Y ✓	N	Drogheda Town Centre
Preservation Order or Temporary P.O.:	Y	N ✓	

NIAH Registration No. (if applicable):

13622036

Introduction:

The referrer has sought a Section 57 declaration as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of works to a protected structure at West Street, Drogheda. The applicant is seeking the retention and refurbishment of existing brass reliquary, removal and replacement of existing carpet/tiled floor with new porcelain tile, cleaning and repainting high-level walls in transept, replacement of existing timber lining to 3 no. former confessional recesses with new timber lining, installation of five new small reliquaries and installation of suspended metal baldchain.



Figure 1: Protected Structure as viewed from West Street

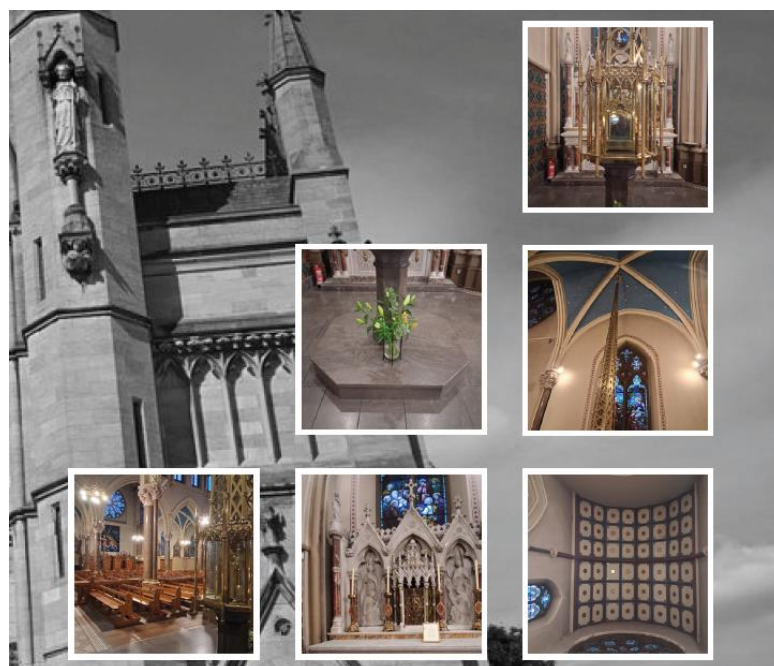


Figure 2: Existing Church Features

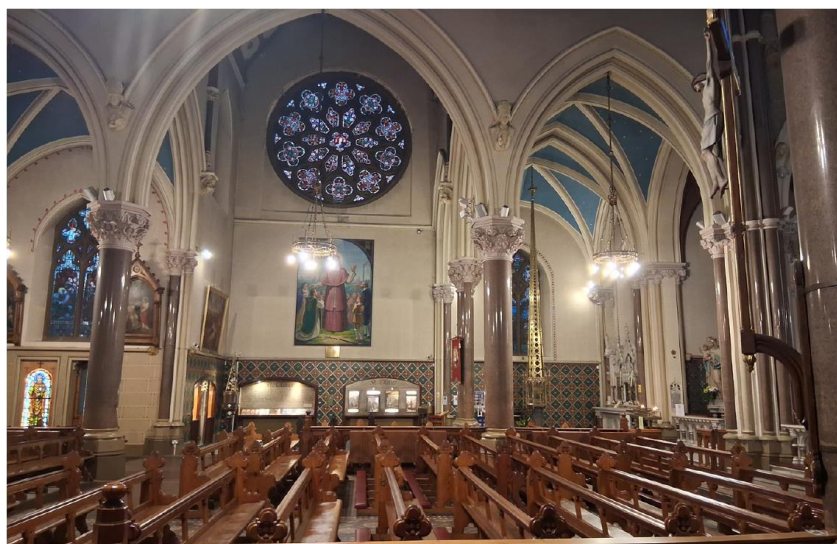


Figure 3: Existing side chapel taken from main body of Church

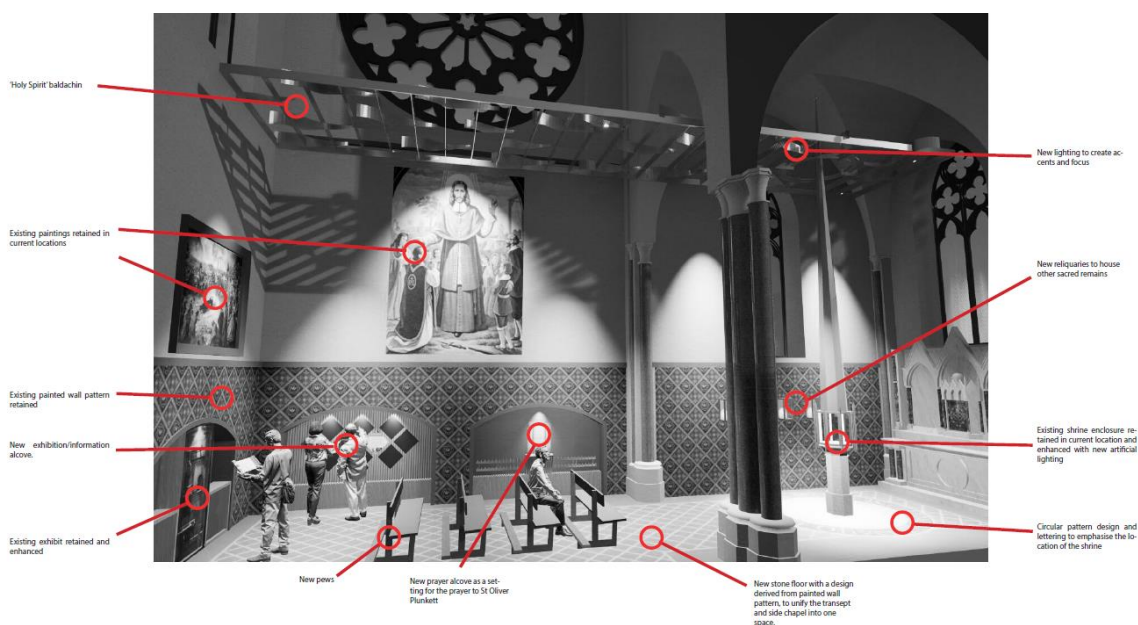


Figure 4: Proposed works to the side chapel

Protection Status:

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, as varied.

The subject building is included within the RPS and is described as follows:

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, West Street Drogheda (RPS DB 247 and NIAH 13622036) is described by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) as: 'Freestanding cruciform-plan Roman Catholic church, originally built 1791, extensively rebuilt 1864 and 1884, crossing transepts and sanctuary added 1891. Apsidal chancel to north, lean-to side aisles to east and west, porches to south elevation of transepts, six-stage pinnacled tower to south-west, two-stage octagonal spire, crockets and cast-iron cross finial to tip and engaged spire motifs;

six-stage octagonal turret to south side chapel and sanctuary to north-west, sacristy to north-east. Pitched slate roofs, cast-iron ridge cresting, tooled limestone verge coping, cut stone cross finials to gables, ashlar parapet on moulded eaves cornice to main block, clay ridge cresting and moulded cast-iron gutters on corbelled eaves course to aisles and north extensions, ashlar limestone shouldered corbelled chimneystack to sacristy. Punch dressed ashlar limestone walling, stepped plinth, buttresses capped by gablets, set back buttresses to tower, moulded limestone string courses, crocket moulding to south; blind ogee-headed arcading, carved sandstone statues to tower and south elevation supported on engaged Corinthian columns on carved angel corbels, surmounted by pedimented pinnacled canopy. Pointed arch window openings, moulded limestone hoods and label stops, chamfered limestone surrounds; paired trefoil-headed windows, multifoil overlights to chancel, paired trefoil-headed windows, quatrefoil overlights to north; rose windows to transepts; paired windows, mouchette overlights to nave; ogee-headed windows to side porches, recessed rose window to south set in four-centre arched stepped opening, moulded surround to archivolt supported on Corinthian colonnettes, stained-glass throughout; shouldered window surround to sides of tower, cast-iron lattice windows, wrought-iron window guards, cross motifs; paired pointed arch louvred openings to upper stages of tower, hood-mouldings, Corinthian colonnettes flanking openings, pointed arch entrances to south, flanked by Corinthian colonnettes supporting stepped arches, gabled hoods, crocket-moulding to central gable and quatrefoil opening, carved stone finials, hood-mouldings with fleuron stops, carved sandstone tympanums, square-headed door openings, painted timber vertically-sheeted doors with cast-iron brackets. Interior with encaustic tiled floor to central aisle, painted smooth rendered walling, vaulted ceiling with surface ribs, tiles to ceiling, sexpartite vault to chancel; gallery to south with quatrefoil balustrade supported on triple-arch arcaded Corinthian columns, elaborate organ to gallery; five-arch arcades to nave, Corinthian columns, polished granite shafts, arcaded hood-mouldings to arches with mask stops, elaborate chancel, stucco mouldings, ogee-headed blind arcading, painted iconography; marble altar and pinnacled reredos; west chapel dedicated to Saint Oliver Plunkett, reliquary containing his head. Situated on elevated site on north side of West Street, fourteen tooled granite steps to entrance, wrought-iron railings to steps, rubble stone grotto and bust of Saint Oliver Plunkett on Corinthian square-profile pier to west, steps to presbytery to north.'

Planning History:

No planning history apparent.

Referral Question:

Would works materially affect the character of the protected structure and as a result, require planning permission?

The submitted question as set out in Question 10 of the S57 declaration request form states:

Retention and refurbishment of existing brass reliquary, removal and replacement of existing carpet/tiled floor with new porcelain tile, cleaning and repainting high-level walls in transept, replacement of existing timber lining to 3 no. former confessional recesses with new timber lining, installation of five new small reliquaries and installation of suspended metal baldchain.

Legislative Provision:

Section 57(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states:

“Notwithstanding Sections 4(1)(h) and any regulations made under Section 4(2), the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or proposed protected structure shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of:

- a) the structure; or*
- b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.”*

Furthermore, Section 57(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states ‘If the declaration relates to a protected structure that is regularly used as a place of public worship, the planning authority F481 [or the Board]

(a) in addition to having regard to the guidelines and recommendations referred to in *subsection (4)*, shall respect liturgical requirements, and

(b) for the purpose of ascertaining those requirements shall—

- (i) comply with any guidelines concerning consultation which may be issued by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, or
- (ii) if no such guidelines are issued, consult with such person or body as the planning authority F481 [or the Board] considers appropriate.’

Assessment:

The applicant has submitted a design presentation report with 3D imagery of the proposed changes and photographs of the existing interior of the building. The applicant is seeking to retain and refurbish the existing brass reliquary, remove and replace the existing carpet/tiled floor with new porcelain tile, clean and repaint high-level walls in transept, replace existing timber lining to 3 no. former confessional recesses with new timber lining, install five new small reliquaries and install a suspended metal baldchain.

Consideration has been given to the liturgical requirements of the church and it is considered that these works are deemed to be relatively minor in nature and do not materially affect the structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and as such the works do **not** require planning permission.

Any further documentation attached (maps, photographs, sketches, notes etc.)? Y

- Request for Section 57 Declaration
- Refurbishment Proposal
- Site Location Map
- Floor Plan

Conclusion No 1:

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the proposed development detailed under Section 10 of the Request for Section 57 Declaration would or would not materially affect the character of protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest at St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church, West Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

AND WHEREAS Canon E. Sweeney PP VG, requested a declaration on the question from Louth County Council on the 8th May 2025

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- a) Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- b) Section 4 (1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- c) Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended,
- d) The Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities,
- e) The special interest pertaining to the protected structure in question and the nature and extent of works set out in the referral question.

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council has Council

- (i) The stated works to the protected structure comprise of works and are, therefore, development, and
- (ii) The stated works would **not** materially affect the character of the structure, or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest,
- (iii) The stated works would consist of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement and alteration of this structure which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures.

NOW THEREFORE Louth County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 57 of the 2000 Act as amended, hereby decides that the proposed works to St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, West Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth, as detailed above **constitutes development that is exempted development.**

Signed by Inspector



Ciarán Kelly, Assistant Planner

Date

23rd July 2025

Signed by Planning Authority Officer



Turlough King, A/Senior Planner

Date

23rd July 2025