

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

Fr. Ciarán Clarke C.C.

Priest on Call

Tel: 087 - 3519516 (For urgent enquiries)

Our Parish Office can be contacted
 Monday – Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm
 telephone (01) 8353149 or e-mail

Public Parish Office Hours are
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 10.30am -12pm

All Mass bookings & enquiries should be
 made in the Parish Office

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen

1st Sunday of Advent

Come, Lord Jesus,
 the light of the World



We light the candle of **Hope**
 at Masses today

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 27th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Joseph McKane Maura, Gerry, Pauline, Patrick Harrington Siobhán Corrigan Michael Kelly Michael Coleman
Sunday 28th	9am	Stephen Ledwith
Donaghmore	10am	Vera & Wally Browne
	11am	Jacqueline Mongan (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	John McAleese
Monday 29th	10am	Brigid Mulvey
Tuesday 30th	10am	Pamela Hurley
Wednesday 1st	10am	Raymond Kane
Thursday 2nd	10am	Siobhán Corrigan
Friday 3rd	10am	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday 4th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Catherine (Pat) Leddy (Months mind) Kathleen Johnson James & Annie Heffernan Bobby, Noreen, & children Bobby, Noreen & Una Eager John Higgins Aiden McMamamy & deceased family Beairtli, Máire, Colm, Sorcha, Pádraic and Sarah Uí Ghríofa Bob McLoughlin and Dominick Colgan
Sunday 5th	9am	Gráinne Redmond
Donaghmore	10am	Betty O'Connell (Months Mind)
	11am	Mary Theresa Clarke & Husband & Sons
	12.30pm	Margaret & Joseph Kelly

Advent Begins Today

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and marks a new calendar year in the Christian world. With Christmas Day on a Saturday this year Advent is at its longest. The four Sundays of Advent remind Christians to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Christ. The advent wreath is used in churches and schools to help us focus on the impending birth of our Lord. In this coming year, cycle C in the liturgical calendar, the gospel of St. Luke will be read at Sunday Masses.

Decorating our Churches for Advent

At masses this weekend the Advent wreath is blessed and the first candle lit to mark the first Sunday of Advent. Each candle represents a theme of Advent. A word is placed next the Advent wreath each week to help us and those visiting the church to reflect on the weekly Advent theme. This week's candle represents 'Hope'.

Living the Gospels of Advent

Each Friday morning after the 10am mass parishioners are invited to join their priests in reflecting on the Sunday gospels of Advent. The thirty minute discussion is open to everyone. If you have a bible do bring it along.

Online Advent Calendar

A free online interactive Irish Advent Calendar is available to help you prepare spiritually for the birth of Jesus. The Advent Calendar can be accessed through www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar and offers resources for the home, parish and school which are available behind a virtual door each day. The content is aimed at assisting people to pray and to reflect on how best we can keep Christ at the centre of our preparations for Christmas. By taking just five minutes out of your day in this way you can take the necessary pause to prepare for the beauty of the nativity.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday week, December 8th, is the Marian feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is the feast day of Ashbourne Church. Mass for the holy day will be celebrated at 10am that morning & 7pm that evening.



Confessions
 Saturday 5pm—6pm



Eucharistic Adoration
 Thursday 10.30am-8pm



Keeping Ourselves Safe at our Advent Masses

Parishioners are reminded that our churches remain a safe place to visit at the present time. However, it is important that we keep to the basics of properly wearing masks in church and following the one - way system of slowly coming forward for Holy Communion. Please remember to wash your hands at home and to use sanitizer on entering and leaving our churches. If you have any symptoms of a cold or flu please join our Masses and liturgies online. We thank our stewards who help us on Sundays to ensure that our churches are maximised as a 'controlled environment'. As we try to live with covid, we pray for God's help to stay safe and to live the life we have been given as best we can.

Annual Child Safeguarding Audit

In the coming week Fr. Michael, Fr. Ciarán and the new Parish Safeguarding Children Representatives will complete the Annual Child Safeguarding Audit for the Parish and return this to the diocesan authorities. The parish is grateful to all those who help them exercise their Christian ministry to young people.



Confirmation Registration

On Tuesday evening Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán met parents intending to register a child for Confirmation. Our priests outlined what is involved in the parish and home preparation for the sacrament. Our three catholic primary schools in Ashbourne work with the parish and family home and all three are co- responsible in preparing children for the sacraments. In the Sacramental Program instruction on the basics of the catholic faith is done after the regular school day in classes that take place in the Parish Hall. We are grateful to the teachers who help parents pass on a living Christian faith.



Message for our Eucharistic Ministers

Thank you to all the Ministers of the Eucharist who participated in the meeting last Tuesday. A few small changes will be introduced from this Sunday including taking the Ciboria from the Tabernacle shelf and returning it there after distribution of the Blessed Sacrament. The parish will let people know more often how the coeliac host is available at every Mass. Ministers are to record in the Sacristy Register those whom they visit to receive Holy Communion.

December Communion Calls to the Sick and Housebound

Two monthly communion calls by the priests of our parish to the sick and housebound of Ashbourne and Donaghmore will take place in December. The first will take place on Friday next and the second during Christmas week. Parishioners receiving the Blessed Sacrament are asked to have a candle, cross and white cloth in place for this visit. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán ask that they be allowed to wash their hands while visiting and they of course will be wearing a facemask. If anyone would like a priest to bring them the Blessed Sacrament, please contact the parish office.



First Friday Mass

Friday next is the First Friday in December. The 10am Mass offered on this day - like every first Friday - is for those enlisted on the Ashbourne/Donaghmore List of the Dead. This will be the first Mass offered for those on the new list.

Music at Sunday Masses

Thank you to those who responded to the recent invitation for musicians to contact the Parish Finance Committee as it looks to reinstate music safely at some of our Sunday Masses. In the coming fortnight Ashbourne Parish Finance Committee will continue the process in the hope of having an agreement with one or two musicians for the celebration of Christmas. Music is uplifting and choirs and congregational singing have been missed by our priests and many parishioners during the restrictions and upheaval of covid 19.



Review of Liturgical Practices

As we begin a new liturgical year it is time for us to look at how we celebrate liturgy. One of the obvious weaknesses at the moment is the absence of music at Sunday Mass but what about other issues? Have you any comment on our Mass times or any other issues to do with liturgical celebration? Is there anything to do with liturgy happening in another parish that you think could benefit our parish? We are always trying to make things better if we can. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions.

Fundraising Concert the Sunday before Christmas

On Sunday evening December 19th at 8pm the 'Three Tenors' will sing in Ashbourne Church. With no parish carol service this year due to covid restrictions this will provide a perfect uplifting alternative. The singers are playing in large indoor settings like our church and have sung in several city cathedrals in recent weeks. Tickets are now on sale and cost €30 each, pay by cash only. The concert will be fully covid compliant with people attending showing their covid pass and following national guidelines on the wearing of face masks.



Christmas Care Appeal

Parish Christmas Care Appeal Starting Monday 29th in conjunction with *Super-Valu* in Ashbourne
***** - helping those in need - *****

If you wish to support this appeal, please advise the staff at the check-out that you would like to make a contribution to the 'Parish Christmas Care Appeal', indicating the amount you wish to donate. This will appear on your till receipt. All donations will be applied to 'Gift Cards' and distributed to those in need. The cards can be redeemed for food, household goods, or solid fuel. The cards can also be used to top up electricity & gas meter cards which can be purchased through Super Valu.

Congratulations to Niamh Cullen and Gavin Kennedy who were married in Donaghmore Church on Thursday last.



Here are the weekly collection figures from last weekend. Thank You.

Plate €1350.00
Shrines €935.00
Development Fund €1135.00

Welcome to our New Parish members

Cali Reina Fitzgerald, Churchfields,
Aodha Sue McGuinness, Deerpark
Seán Brendan Dowell, Bridley Park

We pray for those who have died including

Kathleen Bachorik, New York
Aily O'Reegan, Cluain Rí
REST IN PEACE