

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*

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen

3rd Sunday of Advent 2021

Come, Lord Jesus,
the Light of the World



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

“Preparing Our Hearts with Hope, Faith,
Joy and Peace as we eagerly look
forward to Christmas – the celebration
of the birth of Our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.”

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 11th	7pm	Victor Bolster Shay Byrne John Gernon Maureen Fitzsimons Derek Harrington Paddy & Helen Warren Elaine Moran Margaret & Michael Daly Adam, Pat and deceased members of Hopkins & Taite family Michael Gaynor	
Anniversaries Occurring Mass	Sunday 12th	9am	Paul Kelly
	Donaghmore	10am	Henry Family
		11am	Matt Geraghty (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Sarah Doherty, Frank Meegan	
Monday 13th	10am	James, Ellen & Gerard McGrath	
Tuesday 14th	10am	Deceased of Eager & Heffernan Families	
Wednesday 15th	10am	Ellen McDonald & daughter Elizabeth	
Thursday 16th	10am	Special Intention	
Friday 17th	10am	Ron Tier	
Saturday 18th	7pm	John Bradley Walter Murphy John Ellis Mark Ward Kathleen & Tommy Brennan Andrea Fleming Pauline Larkin Séamus Donnelly	
Anniversaries Occurring Mass	Sunday 19th	9am	Susan Cleary
	Donaghmore	10am	Bernadette Ralph McLoughlin & Tierney Families
		11am	James Lee (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Biddie Randle Charles Fitzsimons	



‘Gaudete’ Sunday

On this Third Sunday of Advent the pink candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and the third word placed on the Advent tree. The candle represents ‘Joy’ and asks us to prepare a path for the Lord with joyfulness and rejoicing. For people of faith Christmas is an uplifting occasion.

Our Parish Cribs Are Going Up this Advent

The outdoor crib in Ashbourne Church was put up in the last few days. Hopefully many people will come in to the church grounds and visit this crib in the weeks ahead. Hopefully also people passing our church will remember to reflect on what it is we are celebrating. The crib in Donaghmore and Ashbourne Churches are about to be put in place. Thank you to all the volunteers on ‘crib duty’ this Christmas.

Birthday Card for Baby Jesus

Children in preparation for Christmas are invited to make a birthday card for baby Jesus. They should do this at school or at home in these Advent days coming up to Christmas and are invited to bring their card with them to Christmas Mass to leave at the indoor crib.



Confessions for Christmas

The priests of the parish and two visiting priests will administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday evening December 21st from 7–8.00pm in Ashbourne Church. It is always beneficial to go to confession for Christmas and to receive the grace of the sacrament. You are welcome to receive the sacrament at any time during this special hour.



Holy Hour as Advent Concludes

A holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer, reflection, silence and Benediction will take place on Thursday evening, December 23rd at 7pm. All are welcome to come to pray for our parish and each other as we keep Christ in Christmas and prepare to welcome baby Jesus.



Join Us This Christmas



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Times

**Ashbourne Church 5pm, 7pm, 10pm,
9am, 11am and 12.30pm**
Donaghmore Church 8pm and 10am

Masses - Seated = Yes : Ticketed = No

Seats in our churches at Christmas as usual are given on a first come, first seated basis. There are no tickets required to attend Mass this year. Last year due to the changing circumstances of the pandemic at Christmas, many parishioners received tickets and could not then attend. This Christmas parishioners are asked to try to opt for a later Mass as these are usually less well attended. We have added Masses to the schedule to reduce the chances of any Mass being full. If capacity is reached our Stewards will do their best to facilitate parishioners in the Parish Hall or adjoining room in Donaghmore Church. We thank all our volunteers helping us to welcome people.



Music Schedule on Christmas Eve / Day

We are glad to say that following our appeal some members of the old Ashbourne Church Choir have volunteered to sing at the 10pm Vigil Mass. They will be singing as per government guidelines and will wear masks while singing as an extra precaution. We thank Giovanna and Ephrem for volunteering to conduct them that night and for leading music at the 11am Christmas Day Mass. We are grateful to Veronica for looking after carols and music at the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass and Anne for the 7pm Vigil Mass. Our priests are very grateful to all those who help them in leading our parish liturgies. The parish continues to appeal for singers or musicians in Ashbourne for our 9am and 12.30pm Christmas Day Masses. We have no one to sing any carols at these Masses. Can you help? If you have a singing voice and have confidence to sing or play music we would love you to contact us at the Parish Office.

Christmas Envelopes

The envelopes used by parishioners to make their Christmas donation are now available in our parish churches. If you have a parish regular envelope box it is best practise to use the envelope with your individual parishioner number. The offerings taken at Christmas and on five other occasions during the calendar year go towards the salary of a priest and his basic living costs. Our priests are grateful to all who contribute to the parish in this way. Míle buíochas.

Vestments for Mass



Is there anyone around this Christmas who would like to make a donation for the purchase of a new vestment to be used at Sunday Masses in Ashbourne Church. A vestment costs around €350. Over time new vestments are needed for the liturgical celebrations in our churches and vestments being replaced are sent to the missions. Thanks to those parishioners who have already responded to this invitation and your names will be placed in the vestment cabinet as long as we use them in our church. Thank you to all those who have donated in this way down the years and to all who assist with the laundering and preparing of liturgical goods.

Volunteer Weekday Sacristans

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán are grateful to the volunteers who are now helping with weekday sacristy duties in Ashbourne Church. Our priests will meet the five new weekday sacristans on Tuesday morning next at 9.30am in Ashbourne Church.

Thank You to Murtagh's Hardware

Thank you to Murtagh's Hardware for sponsoring a new Christmas Tree for St. Patrick's Church, Donaghmore. We greatly appreciate your support.



Government Announcement on Worship in Churches

Thankfully the government announcement of restrictions on Friday week last does not affect our parish churches. This is welcome news. The government now recognises that it is good for people of faith to worship and pray together. Parishioners are reminded that our churches remain a safe place to visit at the present time. It is important that we when we come together we keep to the basics of dressing for winter, 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'. The government briefing of recent days ask all families organising a funeral to please ensure that they are doing all possible to stay safe during the trying days of the funeral of a family member. As we remain living with covid, we continue to pray to God to help us stay safe and to live the life we have been given as best we can.

Coming up to Communion at the 11am Mass

In our recent review of liturgical practices some parishioners asked that the distribution of holy communion be slowed down a little or better organised at the 11am Mass. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán have agreed to see how the distribution of communion would work if it was done row by row. Some parishes already do this and some parishes have introduced this practice in these days of living with covid. From today until the end of January at the 11am Mass we ask that parishioners take a little extra time coming up to communion and only come forward when it is your turn. The stewards will help our priests to manage this new liturgical practice. At the end of January, we will review the practise and judge what is best. Please remember no system is ideal and we are trying to do our best for everyone. Thank you to everyone in advance for their help.



Three Tenors Concert Postponed until 25 February 2022

Due to the restrictions on numbers attending a concert the Three Tenors Concert in Ashbourne Church has been postponed from next Sunday night until Friday night February 25th 2022. All tickets sold by the Parish Office and SuperValu will be honoured on this night. The organisers apologise for any disappointment caused and the Tenors look forward to coming to Ashbourne when conditions allow and covid measures have abated and hopefully this will be so by the last Friday night in February.

Congratulations to Fiona Kelly and Gerard Whelan who were married in Donaghmore Church on Friday.



Fundraising for Local Charities

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is coming to an end at this time. Envelopes have been sent to homes in Ashbourne and the parish has facilitated the taking up of these envelopes. You can donate towards Ashbourne Charity Vouchers at the cash desk of Super Valu. Last year over €3,000 in vouchers was given to charities in Ashbourne to support those in need including SVP and the activities and outreach of Ashbourne Senior Citizens.



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

Plate €990.00

Shrines €935.00

Development Fund €1395.00

We pray for those who have died including our parishioners
Elsie Gorman, Breffni Court and Eileen Gilsean, Ratoath
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE