



# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

website: [ashbourneparish.ie](http://ashbourneparish.ie)  
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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  
*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday &  
 Friday 10.30am -12pm*

**Parish Secretary** Mary Mullen

## 4th Sunday of Advent 2021

**Come, Lord Jesus,  
 the Light of the World  
 We light the Candle of Peace**



Today is Advent's fourth and final Sunday. The word 'Peace' is placed on the Christmas tree as the third purple candle is lit. On the first Christmas the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace and to bring people closer to God and to each other. We pray this week that the peace of Christ may reign.

### Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 18th	7pm	John Bradley, Walter Murphy, John Ellis, Mark Ward, Andrea Fleming, Pauline Larkin, Séamus Donnelly, Tom Ryan, Matt Geraghty, Ken Garland, Elsie Gorman, Daniel Clemin, Patrick Simpson, Joe Cunnane, Derek Tysom, Barry Maguire, Kathleen & Tommy Brennan, Ann Watson, Elizabeth Rooney, James, Bridget, Thomas & Helen Malone, Christopher & Cora Lowe.	
<b>Anniversaries Occurring Mass</b>	Sunday 19th	9am	Susan Cleary
	Donaghmore	10am	Bernadette Ralph
		11am	James Lee (1st Anniversary)
		12.30pm	Biddie Randle Charles Fitzsimons
Monday 20th	10am	Siobhán O'Connell & her dad Danny	
Tuesday 21st	10am	Paddy Hardy	
Wednesday 22nd	10am	Christopher Cassidy	
Thursday 23rd	10am	James Tunnah (1st Anniversary)	
<b>Christmas Eve Friday 24th</b>	All Christmas Masses are offered for People of the parish Ashbourne Church: 5pm, 7pm & 10pm Donaghmore Church: 8pm		
<b>Christmas Day Saturday 25th</b>	Ashbourne Church: 9am, 11am & 12.30pm Donaghmore Church: 10am		
Sunday 26th	9am	Jane Kellegher Robert	
Donaghmore	10am	McLoughlin & Tierney Families	
	11am	Pro Populo	
	12.30pm	Pro Populo	

### Do This In Memory Mass

We welcome the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion. For today the boys and girls have been learning about how the bible is read at Mass. They have learnt the response to the readings and the way we welcome the Gospel by the action of tracing the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, over our lips and heart saying 'Glory, to you, O Lord'. The children have done their art this month on their favourite bible stories. Parents are asked to talk to their children about what story they like and what biblical characters they know.

### 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 days coming up to Christmas and they are invited to bring their card with them for the 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 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-8pm in Ashbourne Church. Confessions will also be available Friday morning December 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am in Ashbourne Church. It is always beneficial to go to confession for Christmas and to receive the grace of this Sacrament.



### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. All are welcome to pray for our parish and each other as we keep Christ in Christmas and prepare to welcome baby Jesus.



### The Feast of the Holy Family

Next Sunday's Mass on December 26<sup>th</sup> is for the Feast of the Holy Family. On the Sunday after Christmas each year we reflect on Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a family. There will be Masses in Ashbourne at 9am, 11am, 12.30pm and Donaghmore at 10am. As you look on the Crib in the coming days at home or in our churches dwell on the fact that Jesus was part of a family just like each of us!



### Encouragement to put up a crib in your home

With many people putting extra effort in to decorating their home it might be a good time to look at how prominent your crib is. Could it be given a 'makeover' to help us reflect on the real meaning of the season?

# Join Us This Christmas

## Christmas Eve Mass

Ashbourne  
5pm 7pm 10pm

Donaghmore  
8pm

## Christmas Day Mass

Ashbourne  
9am 11am 12.30pm

Donaghmore  
10am



## Greetings for Christmas

Fr. Michael, Fr. Ciarán and Mary, our parish secretary, wish you and your loved ones a Christmas of Love, Peace and Joy. We encourage you to stay safe and thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh  
Go Léir.

**The greatest Christmas gift of all was never placed beneath a tree.  
He lay within a manger for all the world to see.**

## Worshipping Safely this Christmas

Our Churches are fully open. However, it is important when we gather together in the coming days that we keep to the basics of dressing for winter, properly wearing masks in church, keeping distance as best we can and following the one-way regulated 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 safe and 'controlled environment'. It has been a long and trying time dealing with the challenges of this pandemic. As we remain living with covid, we continue to pray to God for his help stay safe and to live the life we have been given as best we can.

## Unable to attend Mass at Christmas ...

With the threat of the new Omicron strain of the covid virus now prevalent and the government's latest announcement some people may feel afraid to come to Mass. This is perfectly understandable. You can continue to join Mass online and you can also visit Ashbourne and Donaghmore church buildings during the quiet times over Christmas. All of our parish Masses and activities from Ashbourne are broadcast on our webcam via our parish website - ashbourneparish.ie.

## Christmas Communion Calls to the Sick and Housebound

The priests of our parish will make their Christmas visit to the sick and housebound on Wednesday morning next. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán ask that they be allowed to wash their hands, keep distance while visiting and they of course will be wearing a facemask. If anyone is sick or housebound this Christmas and would like a priest to bring them the Blessed Sacrament or administer the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the parish office by Tuesday morning.



## Christmas Offering Day

Christmas is an offering day for the support of a priest in a parish. Usually the envelope and basket collection taken up at Christmas goes towards the payment of a monthly salary to Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán. With several of the six annual offertory collections not taking place this year and with numbers at masses restricted

parishioners are asked to be as generous as they can. For those who have not got their own parish envelope number special Christmas envelopes are left in each of our churches. People unable to get to mass can return their contribution to either the safe deposit at the back of the church or drop it through the letterbox at the parish office. Gratitude is expressed to all those making a contribution. Your parish gets no state support for income lost over the last two years and we appreciate all those going out of their way to make a supportive offering at this time.

*Mile buiochas.*



## Donating To Your Parish Online

If you wish to donate electronically to our parish you can do so through our parish website 'Donate button'. Please note that the tap machine in Ashbourne Church is not working yet as we have limited internet Wi-fi connectivity in the church and works have to be done in the years ahead to get greater broadband. Our parish bank details are published on the parish noticeboard and are on the parish website.

## Music at Christmas



We thank all those who are helping provide music and carols at our Masses over Christmas. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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

Plate €990.00

Shrines €790.00

Development Fund €830.00

We thank all those who contribute, collect and count our finances.



## Christmas Ceremonies on RTE and EWTN

The 11pm RTE Mass on Christmas Eve on television is from the Cooley Peninsula and is celebrated by the Most Rev Eamon Martin, the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh. The Eurovision Mass on Christmas morning on RTE at 10am is from the French speaking canton of Switzerland. Pope Francis' Christmas message and the annual 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing is broadcast at 11.45am on RTE. EWTN (Channel 588) will broadcast midnight Mass from Bethlehem and the solemn Christmas papal Mass from Rome.



We pray for those who have died including our parishioner

Bertie Clarke, Nine Milestone

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**