

Happy New Year

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE

Priests of the Parish

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Parish Office

Closed over Christmas

Re-opens on Friday 7th January 2022

10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



2nd Sunday of Christmas



**The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.**

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 1st Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Philomena Mulvaney Maureen & James Moloney Catherine & James McDonnell
Sunday 2nd	9am	Bridget Cotter, Broadmeadow Castle (1st Anniversary)
Donaghmore	10am	Pro Populo
	11am	Aily O'Regan, Cluain Rí (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Moira & Matt Kiernan Seán O'Connor Seán Conway
Monday 3rd Most Holy Name of Jesus	10am	Maureen & Bertie Bailey and the Cullen Family
Tuesday 4th	10am	Jackie, Margaret, Pat & Mick Buggie
Wednesday 5th	10am	Pat Sheehy Thomas & Patrick Rattigan
Thursday 6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord		
Thursday 6th	10am	Pro Populo
	7pm	Pro Populo
Friday 7th	10am	First Friday - Altar List of the Dead
Sunday 9th January - The Baptism of the Lord		
Saturday 8th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Joan & Séamus Lyons John Harty Winnie Houlihan & her daughter Angela John Moylon & deceased Family Dermot Crean & deceased Family
Sunday 9th	9am	Patrick, Mary Teresa, Tony & John Clarke
Donaghmore	10am	Pro Populo
	11am	Pro Populo
	12.30pm	Celia Farrell & baby Reiltín Farrell

Second Sunday of Christmas

The gospel according to St John opens with a poem on how 'the Word was made flesh' and dwelt among us, God's people. The Word made flesh is the son of Mary, whose birth we remember on these days of the Christmas season. Until that time it was believed human beings could and would never see God. The heart of the Christmas story is that God sent his Son to share our human weakness and limitation. The bread we receive and share in the Eucharist today is Jesus' flesh, given for the life of the world. When you make a visit to the crib today and in the days ahead, spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and reflect on the phrase 'Word made flesh'.

2021 Parish Year in Review

2021 will be remembered for the long months of covid lockdown and the difficulties it brought to everyone. In June it was announced that Fr. John Nally, the fourth parish priest was taking the opportunity to go on diocesan loan to Waterford-Lismore Diocese. Fr. Michael Kilmartin was made the new parish priest by Bishop Tom Deenihan who officiated at the induction ceremony in July which also marked Fr. Michael's silver jubilee of ordination. The parish immediately began work to reopen and recover from the effects of covid. Shay Butler retired in October as the Ashbourne Church Sacristan after many years in the role. As part of living with covid the parish highlighted the need for volunteers to help strengthen itself. The parish was fortunate to receive finance which helped it pay off three substantial loans and for the first time the parish is not in debt. The 2020 accounts released in September showed the parish lost €95,000 due to covid and Fr. Michael continues at the year end to work with Fr. Ciarán and members of the Parish Finance Committee to cut costs and ensure the viability of our parish. For Christmas, work was done on improving the Cribs and on decorating the churches in a festive Christian way to bring the message of the Christ child for those visiting our sacred spaces during Christmas.



First Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in 2022

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins again on Thursday next, 6th January from 12 noon to 8pm and takes place each Thursday in Ashbourne Church. All are encouraged to spend some time for adoration and quiet prayer. It is a wonderful New Year's Resolution.



Saturday Confessions Resume

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 5pm to 6pm. All are welcome to receive the sacrament and it is another good way to begin the New Year.

6 January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Thursday is little Christmas - the twelfth day of Christmas. Traditionally, this is a holy day of obligation. As the Christmas season comes to a close we remember the visit of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem. In Ashbourne Church two Masses for the feast will be celebrated - 10am and 7pm.



Almighty God, who by the light of a star, led wise men to Jesus; by the light of your Word, lead us and all nations to the Saviour of the World and together may we bring to Him our best gifts and pay homage to Him as our King.

9th January - The Baptism of our Lord



Next Sunday, we celebrate the feast of Jesus' baptism. As part of this Mass we reflect on what it means that we are baptized and we renew our baptismal promises.

New Year Baptisms

The first new year baptisms will take place on Sunday, January 9th as part of Masses on this Feast. The normal weekly baptism schedule will resume on Saturday, January 15th at 2.30pm.

Worshipping Safely as the New Year Begins



It is important that as we come together these first months of the New Year 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 row by row 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 and other major liturgical occasions to ensure that our churches are maximised as a safe and 'controlled environment'. It is now just short of two years that we have been dealing with the challenges of this pandemic. 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.

New Procedures for Coming up to Holy Communion

Thank you to all those who are cooperating with the introduction of the new way of coming forward to receive Holy Communion. By coming forward row by row it helps to slow down communion reception particularly at Masses where we have over fifty per cent capacity. This trial, as part of our parish living with covid will continue until the end of January when we will review how this new liturgical practice is working.



Intentions on Masses

The diary for the booking of 2022 Masses is now open. Please note that for all Masses only one intention is taken, except for the 7pm Vigil Mass. This is so that the celebrant of the Mass can take that specific intention. The Vigil Mass on Saturday evening is a 'shared intention' Mass for those whose anniversary occurs. At this Mass the names of the deceased are read and a family member lights a Remembrance Candle as the community pray for those who have passed from this world. Please be aware of these guidelines when meeting our volunteer office staff. We thank you for your co-operation and our parish continues to put best diocesan practices back in place as we recover from covid.



New Year Reflection

'Let go of the old, reach out for the new, for the past is cold and the future is due. Each year holds memories, some happy - some sad, we must treasure the good, let go of the bad. Make the most of each day at work and at play, for the old year is history, the future - a mystery'. - *Phylis Ellison*.



New Things Happening in 2022

In 2022 a worldwide Synod in the Church will begin. This is a consultation among the people of God. Our parish reflection, discussion and listening will take place in February and March of this year. Our parish deliberations will be forwarded to the diocese and be part of the Irish Church reflection. It is also intended that over the next year a new Parish Pastoral Council will be put together. Fr. Derek Darby, our former PP, is helping new councils to be set up across the 69 parishes of the Meath Diocese. This parish has plans in early spring to host an online Alpha course for parishioners to come together and explore faith issues. In the year ahead it is also hoped that plans for the refurbishment of the presbytery and the old national school next to Ashbourne Church will be advanced. Lastly, God willing, our parish will launch a new website to help us better communicate the mission of our parish.



New Year Sacramental Dates

Confirmation: Saturday 12 March
First Communion: Saturday 7 and 14 May



Confirmation Catechesis

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will meet with the children on the parish confirmation program on Thursday morning January 6th. As part of their preparation for this sacrament the children attend monthly catechesis in Ashbourne Church from 10.45am to 11.20am. The catechesis links with the work the children will be doing at home and at school as part of their preparation. The children and their families are asked to attend weekly Sunday Mass with the faith community and once a month the children are involved with the Sunday liturgy. - - - 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Parish Program - Sacramental Classes Resume

On Tuesday and Wednesday of the week of January 11th and 12th the after school Parish Program Sacramental Classes resume in the Parish Hall. We thank Kay, the teachers and parents for ensuring that the classes run safely and smoothly during the year.

Thanks to those making their Annual Offering

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán are grateful to those making their annual Christmas offering at this time. We thank those who have given to their parish in recent days. The Christmas dues in Meath Diocese make up a large part of the monthly salary paid to the priests in a parish. One third of dues to a parish come in usually at Christmas and there are five other offering collections throughout the year to raise the finance for the number two priest's welfare account. If you have not got around toward giving to us yet it is not too late. Please put your offering in an envelope and drop it into the Safe Deposit Donation Box which at the back of Ashbourne Church near the shrine of St Joseph or post it through the Parish Office door. In the coming week or two the final amounts received will be published and acknowledged. Our priests are grateful to all for your support and financial contributions.

We pray for those who have died recently

Caroline Lacey, Killeglan Rise
Ciarán Benville, Hawthorns
Joe Carthy, Milltown Estate
Josephine Mooney, Castleknock
Gheorgehe Mirt, Clondalkin



MAY THEY REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE

New Year Gratitude

As the New Year begins and the Christmas lights and decorations come down in the coming days gratitude is expressed to all who help out in the parish in any way. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán thank also all those who are giving Christmas offerings at this time. Míle buíochas.

