

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

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Parish Office

Open Tuesday—Friday

10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



The Baptism of the Lord



**He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!**

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 9th January - The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday 9th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Joan & Séamus Lyons John Harty Winnie Houlihan & her daughter Angela John Moylan & deceased Family Dermot Crean & deceased Family Patrick Cronan Marian O'Brien
Sunday 9th	9am	Bertie Clarke (Months Mind) Patrick, Mary Teresa, Tony & John Clarke
Donaghmore	10am	Marie O'Donnell
	11am	Pro Populo
	12.30pm	Celia Farrell & baby Reiltín Farrell
Monday 10th	10am	Catherine Walsh
Tuesday 11th	10am	Pro Populo
Wednesday 12th	10am	Terry O'Brien
Thursday 13th	10am	Tom Daly
Friday 14th	10am	Pro Populo
Saturday 15th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	John Gernon Ann Grimes Charles, Dolores & Charlie O'Neill
Sunday 16th	9am	Brigid & John Garvey Deceased of Boylan & Garvey Families
Donaghmore	10am	Pro Populo
	11am	Una O'Brien Rolestown, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Jimmy, Jean & Peadair Lawless Christopher Tormey

Renewal of Baptism Promises

This Sunday we mark the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan. All four gospels record Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist which heralds the start of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was thirty years of age when baptised. At mass we renew our baptismal promises and we are sprinkled with holy water as we pledge our allegiance to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our baptism sets us apart and calls us into union with God.

Holy Water in our parish



Regrettably, Holy water, the great sacramental linked to our baptism, is not allowed to be placed in fonts at this time when touching of surfaces that can easily get contaminated remains restricted. Holy Water is available in the metal container at the sacristy door next the cemetery in Ashbourne Church grounds. Parishioners are welcome to take holy water from this container when the church grounds are open.

Parish Baptism Guidelines

Baptisms take place in Ashbourne Church every Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm. In order to strengthen the connection of baptism with the gathering of the faith community parents introduce themselves and their new born to Fr. Michael or Fr. Ciaran after attending Sunday mass and express their desire to have their child baptised. The parents receive a 'Baptism Request Form' and information on preparing for the celebration of the sacrament. The Baptism Request Form is then completed and returned to the parish office or one of the priests. Up to four baptisms take place on any given Saturday. At least two weeks advance notice is necessary and once the form is processed the parish secretary will confirm the baby's baptism date by email or telephone. There are now no restrictions on numbers attending and everyone is welcome to the ceremony in person or online.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Thursday from 10.30am to 8pm in Ashbourne Church. All are encouraged to spend some time in adoration & quiet prayer. It is a wonderful New Year's Resolution.

Yearly Statistics on Baptisms

In 2021 there were 145 baptisms in our parish. It was a challenging year for baptisms as the country including the church was in a lockdown for many months. This meant that as the country and our parish tried to reopen and live with covid there was a huge demand for baptisms in the latter part of the year. In 2020 there were 95 baptisms in Ashbourne Donaghmore parish and in 2019 there were 157 children and 4 adults.

Catholic Schools Week 2022

Catholic Schools Week takes place from 30th of January to 4th of February. During this week the catholic schools celebrate their ethos and the value system that is enshrined in their characteristic spirit. The theme for 2022 is 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'.



'Do This In Memory' Catechesis 3

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will meet with the children on the parish communion program on Tuesday morning January 11th. As part of their preparation for holy communion the children attending our parish catholic schools with their teachers attend monthly catechesis in Ashbourne Church from 10.45am to 11.20am. The catechesis will be on the Offertory gifts of bread and wine and 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. This is the third encounter since the reopening of our churches.

Parish Program After School Sacramental Classes Resume

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the after school sacramental classes resume. We thank Kay, the teachers and parents for ensuring the classes run safely and smoothly.

Getting Ready for Confirmation

Confirmation in Ashbourne is now only a little more than eight weeks away. The enrolled children are busy learning about the sacrament and the Holy Spirit. Bishop Tom is due to begin confirmation in early February and is with us, God willing, on March 12. Just like in recent covid years the confirmation ceremony will be a stand-alone ceremony and the candidate and three other people are allowed attend. Candidates and families are asked to follow all of the guidelines around staying safe in church buildings and grounds. *'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love ...'*



Junior Infant Admissions Notice

The three Catholic Primary Schools of the Parish (St. Declan's N.S., St. Mary's N.S. & Gaelscoil na Cille), will be accepting online applications, for children who are due to start in Junior Infants September 2022, between the 1st January 2022 and 24th January at 12 noon. Please see the school websites for further information

www.decsash.ie

www.smash.ie

www.gaelscoilnacille.scoilnet.ie

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. Until then, please remember no system is ideal.

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.

Coeliac or Gluten Free Hosts

Parishioners are reminded that a gluten free host is available from the priest at communion time. If you are gluten intolerant please indicate that you wish to receive this host when you come forward for communion. The pyx with these hosts is contained within the large ciboria to emphasise the oneness of all God's people around the Eucharist.

Offertory Gifts at the 11am Sunday Mass

The 11am Sunday Mass is reserved for a month's mind or first anniversary mass. Families booking the mass do so through the parish office and will be invited by Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán on the week of the mass to take up the offertory gifts of bread and wine. The gifts that we offer at mass are symbolic of the prayers that we offer together for the deceased. It is an important aspect of our faith that we pray for the dead and keep them alive in our hearts.



Christian Unity Week (18th-25th January)

Each year during this month Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation between Christians of all denominations. In the past in our country there was much emphasis on difference rather than on similarities and regrettably Christians often did not share and celebrate their common vision. We have all heard stories of how horrific these divisions were. Today thankfully Catholics, Church of Ireland members, Methodists and Presbyterians emphasize the person of Christ at the heart of their lives. On Sunday January 23rd Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will offer Mass for Christian Unity.

Parish Finance Meeting

The first 2022 meeting of the parish finance committee will take place on Tuesday evening January 25th. At this meeting work on the 2021 parish accounts will be advanced and new diocesan guidelines on good financial governance communicated. Plans for the refurbishment of the presbytery and the old national school next Ashbourne Church will be discussed and approval sought for the new music contracts at the 7pm and 11am Sunday masses.

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

Plate €1065.00

Shrines €1370.00

Development Fund €995.00



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



We pray for those who have died recently

John Scanlon, Deerpark
Marian Monks, Brookville
Seán Flynn, Kinnegad
Josephine Ryall, Newbridge

MAY THEY REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Epiphany Announcement of Easter 2022

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the 2nd day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.
On the 17th day of April we will celebrate with joy Easter day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the 29th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 5th day of June, the feast of Pentecost.
On the 19th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the 27th day of November, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.