



# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: [ashbourneparish.ie](http://ashbourneparish.ie)

## Priests of the Parish

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## Parish Office

Open Tuesday - Friday

10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen

2nd Sunday - Year C



**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Your words are spirit, Lord,**  
**and they are life:**  
**you have the message of**  
**eternal life.**  
**Alleluia!**

## Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 16th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 15th <b>Anniversaries Occurring Mass</b>	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	Christopher Tormey
Monday 17th	10am	Ann Brennan
Tuesday 18th	10am	Mass for Christian Unity
Wednesday 19th	10am	Andrea Fleming
Thursday 20th	10am	Pro Populo
Friday 21st	10am	Mary Browne
Saturday 22nd <b>Anniversaries Occurring Mass</b>	7pm	Caroline Lacey
Sunday 23rd	9am	Margaret Maher
Donaghmore	10am	P.J. Shanahan
	11am	Pro Populo
	12.30pm	Barry Maguire



For a Synodal Church:  
Communion,  
Participation, Mission  
The Synodal Pathway

Today's gospel is that of the wedding feast of Cana. We hear Jesus saying to Mary that his hour had not yet come. As we enter a new church year, Mary of Nazareth, urges us to believe that the hour has come. The hour has come to believe that the reign of God is in our midst. The hour has come to listen to the urgings of the Holy Spirit. The hour has come for the church to become genuinely synodal. The hour has come for us all to listen and appreciate the voice of her members, especially the marginalised. The hour has come for us to look at Christ and do what He tells us. As the church synod begins this springtime may we believe that the moment is now to grasp the opportunity for the church to listen, discern and act in an ever new and ever embracing Christian way.

All the baptised are invited to participate in the synodal process during Lent 2022. Opportunities to engage in the process locally will be announced in February.

Enlightened by the Word of God and united in prayer, we will be able to discern the processes to seek God's will and pursue the pathways to which God calls us – towards deeper communion, fuller participation, and greater openness to fulfilling our mission in the world. (Vademecum 1.2)

To learn more about synodality see [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) or [www.dioceseofmeath.ie/news/universal-synod/](http://www.dioceseofmeath.ie/news/universal-synod/)

Congratulations to Emma Lawlor & Ruairi Stewart who were married in Donaghmore Church on Saturday 8th January.



## 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.

## Saturday Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 5pm to 6pm. All are welcome to receive the sacrament with the fullness of God's love & mercy.



## Christian Unity Week January 18th - 25th

Each year during this month Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation between Christians of all denominations.

In the past within our country there was much emphasis on difference rather than on similarities. Regrettably Christians often did not share and celebrate their common vision. We all heard stories of how horrific these divisions were. Today thankfully Catholics, Church of Ireland members, Methodists and Presbyterians emphasise unity and for the person of Christ to be at the heart of their lives. Mass on Tuesday 18th will be offered for Christian Unity and on Sunday 23rd this intention will be included for all Masses.



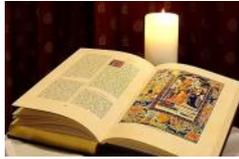


### ‘Called by the Spirit’ Preparatory Masses

We welcome children in our parish to the second of the three preparatory Masses for Confirmation taking place today. In preparation for this Mass the ‘confirmandi’ have been reflecting on the gifts that God gave them and learning about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As part of the prayer of the faithful the children will say the ‘Come, Holy Spirit’ prayer. At the end of Mass the ‘confirmandi’ will receive from our parish the gift of a small bottle of Holy Water. This reminds us of the link with the Sacraments of Confirmation and Baptism.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – ‘Word of God Sunday’

In January of 2020 Pope Francis asked that all parishes celebrate ‘Word of God’ Sunday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time each January. In doing so, Pope Francis is asking us to reflect on the importance of the ‘Word of God’ to Christians. Each Sunday the Bible is read in Christian Churches and we as followers of Jesus are asked to let the Word speak to us.



### Quotations that help us Value Scripture

‘Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the words of Sacred Scripture. If we hear his voice and open the doors of our minds and hearts then he will enter our lives and remain ever with us.’ *Pope Francis 2020*

St Jerome, the man who translated the bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, famously said ‘Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ’.

‘The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed’ expresses the remarkable way in which the two testaments of the Bible are so closely interrelated with each other. - *St. Augustine*

An acronym for Bible to remember is ‘Best Information Before Leaving Earth’.



### Mobile Phone Vs Bible

What would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone? What if we carried it around in our purses and pockets?

- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn’t live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we travelled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?
- This is something to think about ...
- Where is my Bible?

Unlike our mobile phone, we don’t have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because our Lord in heaven already paid the bill ...

### Notice For Ministers of the Word

Just a reminder that after you have read please go directly to your seat as we are trying to phase out the covid practise of staying at the Ambo until the priest has read the gospel or finished his homily. The parish is grateful to you for your service as a Reader of the Word of God. Ashbourne-Donaghmore Parish has a total of thirty-five parishioners involved as Ministers of the Word.

### Phoning the Parish Office

The Parish Office Phone Number is (01) 8353149. People may ring this number when contacting the Parish Secretary with any enquiry, to book a Mass or find out parish related information. Outside of Parish Office hours, a message can be left on the phone answering service. If you are contacting the parish outside of office hours in an emergency situation i.e. when a loved one has died or arranging a funeral please use the emergency phone number which is (086) 7327737. Please do not ring this number if looking to book a Mass or organise a baptism. Many thanks.



### Worshipping Safely

It is important that when we gather together in our churches 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’. 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.



### Pope Francis encourages people to be vaccinated



On Monday Pope Francis said that getting a vaccination against covid is ‘an act of love’. He stressed that we have ‘a moral obligation’ to get vaccinated in order to look after ourselves and others. He asked people not to be swayed by ‘baseless information’ which scares people from getting a vaccination jab.

### Gathering For Funerals

In order to reduce congestion at the doors of our churches at the time of a funeral people attending are asked to take their seat in the church before the funeral begins. A practise crept in with covid where people followed the coffin into the church for a reception of remains or funeral Mass. Now people are asked to take their seat before Mass and to stand as the Mass begins as a mark of respect for the opening of the liturgy for the deceased. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



### Parish Finance Meeting



The first 2022 meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on Tuesday evening week, January 25<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting work on the 2021 Parish Accounts will be advanced and the new diocesan guidelines on good financial governance communicated. Plans for the refurbishment of the Presbytery and the Old National School next to Ashbourne Church will be discussed and approval sought for the new Music Contracts at Sunday Masses.

### Christmas Offerings 2021

In recent days the 2021 Christmas Offerings were counted. We are glad to say that the offerings received at Christmas this year matched the 2018 and 2019 amounts of just over €14,000. The monies collected at Christmas is one of six that take place that support two priests living in our parish. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán are very appreciative of the monies received that make up the number two account in our parish.



### Weekly collection figures from last weekend Thank You.

Plate €945.00  
Shrines €640.00  
Development Fund €1035.00



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



### We pray for those who have died recently

Anne Nancy O’Neill, Huntsgrove  
George Collins, Milltown  
John Scanlon, Deerpark  
Martin Cusack, Raystown

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE