

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

6th Sunday Year C



Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

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Parish Office

Open Tuesday - Friday

10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 12th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Gerald O'Neill, Lee Moore Tony, Kevin & Eilish Bartley PJ Walsh, Mary Dignam Wendy Fleming, Deceased of Malone & O'Scanail Families Geraldine & Luke Fanning
Sunday 13th	9am	Paul Donnelly, Killelland (Months Mind)
Donaghmore	10am	Bill Henry, Fieldstown, (!st Anniversary)
	11am	John Scanlon, Deerpark (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Declan O'Donoghue
Monday 14th	10am	Pro Populo
Tuesday 15th	10am	Margaret Mintern
Wednesday 16th	10am	Anne O'Neill Huntsgrove (Months Mind)
Thursday 17th	10am	Michael Moynihan
Friday 18th	10am	Philip O'Connor
Saturday 19th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Ronan & Ned Carey Joe Finn Paudy Daly Mir Condrón & Family
Sunday 20th	9am	Ann Clarke
Donaghmore	10am	Niamh Carson Paddy Moran
	11am	Ciarán Benville, Hawthorns (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Gerard Ryan The Reilly Family

Defining Happiness

Philosophers, theologians and psychologists and even economists have long sought to define happiness. Today we hear Jesus giving us his take on happiness in the gospel of the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes have inspired millions of people throughout the world. They point out clearly how wrong we can be, in the sight of God, if we measure the success of our lives in purely human terms. We judge from the outside. God looks at our hearts.



The Story Behind St. Valentine

Valentine was a priest in Rome. According to the Roman martyrology, Valentine died for the faith, 14th February 269, under Claudius II, the Emperor at the time. The martyrology says: "At Rome, on the Flaminian Way, the birthday of the blessed martyr Valentine, a priest. After performing many miraculous cures and giving much wise counsel he was beaten and beheaded under Claudius Caesar." The Roman Emperor Claudius II forbade the young men to marry because he thought single men were better soldiers. Valentine secretly married young couples and was arrested and put in prison. The threat of death could not induce Valentine to renounce his faith. While in prison he prayed for and healed the blind daughter of a judge, Asterius, who with his family converted to Christianity and suffered martyrdom with Valentine. In 498AD Pope Gelasius named February 14th St. Valentine's Day. A Basilica was built in his honour near the cemetery of St. Hippolytus where his remains were found. In the nineteenth century, a relic of the saint was given to the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar Street and married couples celebrating significant anniversaries visit this Irish shrine of St. Valentine to renew their vows. The crocus, which flowers about this time of year, is also known as St. Valentine's flower.



Getting Married in the Coming Months?

Any couple getting married in the coming months are asked to make sure that they do their pre marriage course and the church paperwork in plenty of time. This is to ensure that all is organised and the couple can focus on planning their ceremony in the church with their priest in the months coming up to the wedding. In recent weeks Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán updated the parish wedding guidelines to support couples in our parish getting married. Our priests meet brides and grooms to be every Saturday afternoon in the parish office.



'Accord' Marriage Care

Accord is the catholic marriage support service agency in Ireland. Trained facilitators provide pre marriage courses and on-going marriage support to couples. They also provide counselling to couples seeking help. The Meath diocesan office of Accord is in Navan and their website is www.accord.ie



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Marking the Foundation of the New Church



22 February 1981 is the day that the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by Bishop John McCormack. The parish priest at that time was while Fr. Martin Burke and Fr. Fintan Cassidy was the curate. It took two years to build the church. On Tuesday

week, the Feast of the Apostle Peter, the 10am mass will be one of thanksgiving for all those who continue to contribute and care for our church.

Clean Up of Our Church Interior

Have you time to give to your faith community on Monday next, February 21st? It is hoped that a group of parishioners would meet in the church at 11am on Monday morning week to Hoover, dust and clean the church in time for the church feast day and the new season of Lent. If you have time and are willing to work with others for an hour or two please let the parish office know in the coming days. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers in keeping our parish active and strong.



Lent will begin in just over two week's time. Thankfully, it looks like our Lenten and Easter experience will be fairly well back to normal after a torrid two years of the faithful being unable to worship and pray freely due to covid. Fr. Michael is looking forward to his first paschal experience in our parish. What is normally done in Ashbourne for Lent? Have you any ideas for how we might mark the season this year? If you have any suggestions why not email them to the parish office or share them with Fr. Michael or Ciarán and they can take them on board.

Donaghmore Meeting

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will meet with parishioners of the Donaghmore faith community on Wednesday evening next, February 16. All are welcome to the gathering in the church at 7pm as the priests of the parish with parishioners look at ways of improving and strengthening ourselves in the coming months.

Parish Pastoral Council

A meeting of the pastoral council in our parish will be held in the boardroom of the parish hall on Tuesday evening February 22 at 7.30pm. We will look at the possibility of hosting an alpha course in our parish after Easter and look at how the group might support the synodal conversation being held on the Tuesday evenings of Lent in Ashbourne.



New 'Three Tenor' Concert Date

The 'Three Tenor' Concert that was cancelled before Christmas due to covid restrictions has been rescheduled for Ashbourne Church on Sunday evening April 24th. All tickets sold for that concert will be honoured on that night. Details about this new concert on the Sunday after Easter will be announced in the coming weeks. We look forward to hosting this musical celebration.



Are you in the 18 to 35 Age Bracket?



Our parish wants to hear from you. On the evening of Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.30pm you are invited to the parish hall for a cup of tea and a conversation on the future of the church.

Pope Francis has asked parishes to bring people together to reflect on issues to do with faith and people's experience of church. Young people are important and we want to hear your voice. This 'Youth Adult' Synod will be the first of four Tuesday evenings hosted by Ashbourne parish as part of Pope Francis' call to priests and people to come together for a 'Listening Lent'.

New Website – synod.ie

A new website 'synod.ie' has been launched to support engagement with the national synodal pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland. The website provides information about the synodal pathway and the timeframe for the work, as well as making available a variety of resources to support engagement.

Dr. Nicola Brady, Chair of the Steering Committee said: "The initial response to the announcement of the synodal pathway by the Irish bishops has been very encouraging. Many people have expressed a desire to learn more about the concept of synodality and how this might work in practice in our context. We hope that this website will be a helpful resource to those who wish to engage with the process as it develops."

Welcoming the publication of the website and resources Archbishop Eamon Martin said: "This website builds on the important work that has begun at diocesan and national levels, as well as in a variety of other settings, to take up the invitation from Pope Francis to think about what it means to be a synodal church. I encourage everyone to use the resources provided to make their perspective to this important work. Bishops are grateful to all those who have contributed thus far to raising awareness of the synodal pathway and helping us to take the first steps on this journey."



Killelland Parish Trust

Killelland Trust will meet on Friday February 25th at 6pm in the parish office. All members are asked to attend as Fr. Michael is briefed on the role of the Trust in our parish.

Priest's Spring Offertory Collection

Today is one of six Priest's Offertory Collection Days. The monies collected both in the basket and the envelope collection goes towards the support of the priests of the parish. By your contribution you are helping to ensure our parish is able to fund itself and provide the basic income for two priests in ministry. Your donations are always gratefully received. Míle buíochas.

Weekly collection figures from last weekend

Plate €1955.00

Shrines €1030.00

Development Fund €940 00



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

We pray for those who have died recently including

Niamh Dalton, Ashbourne & Glasnevin

Rita Keogh, Milltown Extension

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

