

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



7th Sunday Year C

Few will find today's Gospel easy to live. Jesus goes beyond the usual standard, known as the 'Golden Rule' – 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you'. The teaching of Jesus is about loving enemies and doing good to those who hate.



Humanly speaking, Jesus' teaching is unreasonable. Our Lord then says that we should not judge others and God will not judge us. The discipline of love is to be the bedrock of the disciples' moral code. Jesus showed this love by praying for forgiveness for his executioners on Good Friday.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 19th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Ronan & Ned Carey Joe Finn Paudy Daly, Diane Carey 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
Monday 21st	10am	Tom & Margaret Collins & Brian Dobson
Tuesday 22nd	10am	Foundation Day of Ashbourne Church Extension
Wednesday 23rd	10am	Margaret & Joey Norris
Thursday 24th	10am	Richard Whyte
Friday 25th	10am	Patrick & Elizabeth McDonald
Saturday 26th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Anne Fitzpatrick Fitzpatrick & Sullivan Families Patricia & Frank Mc Hutcheon Harry Cullen, Joseph Heapes Johnny & Vincent Beggy
Sunday 27th	9am	Jimmy Lee
Donaghmore	10am	Teresa Moran
	11am	Tom Harris, Dublin Road, (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Phyllis Kane & Brendan O'Reilly

Do This In Memory Mass

We welcome the families with children for 1st holy communion to mass this weekend. This is the fourth of six 'Do This In Memory' preparatory masses. This month the children have been learning "big words" namely 'sanctuary', 'tabernacle' and consecration'. At every mass we relive the Last Supper believing that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. In the miracle of the Eucharist Jesus becomes present to us in a special way. Jesus is kept in the tabernacle and the children are learning how to genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament. All of us perhaps can increase our attention to the Eucharist and our example to others by carefully genuflecting as we enter and leave our church seat.



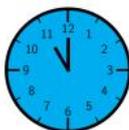
Marking the Foundation of the New Church



Tuesday is the Feast of the Apostle Peter and is the feast day on which the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by Bishop John McCormack. This event happened on 22 February 1981 and in attendance with parishioners were the priests at that time Fr. Martin Burke and Fr. Fintan Cassidy. A photograph of the old church before the extension was added is on display this weekend in the church. Ashbourne was part of Ratoath parish and Donaghmore was part of Curraghera. In 1984 the diocese established Ashbourne and Donaghmore as a new parish in its own right. The 10am mass on Tuesday in Ashbourne will be one of thanksgiving for our church.

Restoring the Time of Funerals

During the covid era funerals were moved to 11.30am to allow ample time after the 10am mass to sanitise the church and allow the church to be ventilated. New government guidelines mean that we can move funerals back to 11am. This will begin from Ash Wednesday, 2 March. On some days, when catechesis happens at 10.45am with the school children and teachers meeting with Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán in the church, the funeral of a parishioner will happen at the later time. As this measure is introduced we thank everyone for their cooperation and help keeping everyone safe at prayer during covid.



Monday Morning Clean of Ashbourne Church

Have you an hour or two to give to your faith community on Monday? Are you good at working with others? A group of parishioners will meet in the church at 11am to clean the inside of the church in preparation for the feast day on Tuesday. All helpers will be welcome. There is no need to bring anything but a willing heart. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers in keeping our parish active and strong.



Just 10 Days To The Start of Lent



Lent will begin in ten days time. Thankfully, it looks increasingly likely that 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. Thank you to all those who took time during the week to make suggestions to Fr. Michael or Ciarán. In next weekend's newsletter the Lenten schedule will be announced.

Next Wednesday week is Ash Wednesday. There will be masses to mark the beginning of Lent at 10am and 7pm. People will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes on several occasions in the church and opportunities for the sacrament of confession will also be available as people embark on this opportunity of spiritual renewal.



Trocáire Boxes

Trocáire Boxes will be available at the end of all masses next Sunday. It is hoped that our stewards will help with their distribution. If anyone would like to become a Trocáire ambassador - that is a volunteer in our parish supporting Trocáire- we would be glad to hear from you. Trocáire ambassadors support the priests of the parish in communicating the work of Trocáire in the developing world.



Confirmation is Three Weeks Away

Our parish wrote to the parents of children for the sacrament of confirmation during the week. The letter encourages parents to continue to prepare their child for the sacrament. The diocesan guidelines for confirmation this year means there will be two stand-alone ceremonies in Ashbourne and the candidate, sponsor and two other people are invited to attend. Candidates and families have been asked to follow all of the normal guidelines around keeping the ceremony prayerful and staying safe and free from covid in church buildings and grounds. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first seated basis. Parents are asked at this time to talk to their child about the pressures around alcohol that they will be exposed to in the coming years and whether they wish to take the confirmation pledge until they are 18 years of age. In a fortnight's time the confirmation children will attend the final preparatory Sunday mass for the sacrament.



Parish Pastoral Council

A meeting of the pastoral group in our parish will be held in the boardroom of the parish hall on Tuesday evening next 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.



You are part of the Church!

This is the belief of the universal Church. By Baptism, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ that is the Church of God. And it is this belief that is bringing people together in Ireland this Lent to reflect on their faith experience. Pope Francis opened a synod in Rome last October, and every diocese across the world was called to celebrate the opening of the synod at local level. In our own Diocese of Meath, Bishop Deenihan issued a message inviting all the baptised to be part of the synod in their own parishes. The theme of this synod is: "For a synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". Across all levels of the entire Church throughout the world, this will be a journey of listening to each other, sharing experiences, praying together, discerning what God's Spirit is saying to the Church at this time.



Calling Young Adults of Faith ...

Our parish wants to hear from you. On the evening of Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.15pm you are invited to the parish hall for 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 in the 18 to 35 age bracket 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 and Ratoath deanery as part of Pope Francis' call to priests and people to come together for a 'Listening Lent'.

Donaghmore Church Clean Up

On Saturday morning, March 5th, at 11am volunteers are sought to help with an hour's cleaning of Donaghmore Church. If you can donate an hour we would love to see you there.

Accounts for 2021 Handed Over

On Wednesday Fr. Michael handed over the parish accounts to the diocesan accountant. The accounts will now be correlated, reconciled with bank statements online and sent to an independent auditor. The accounts will be then presented to the parish finance committee for approval and publication. The accounts of our parish are part of the 69 parishes that make up the diocesan charity under the name 'St. Finian's Diocesan Trust'. All monies are accounted for and all monies donated in our parish are spent for the mission of our faith communities in Ashbourne and Donaghmore. We take this opportunity to thank all those who donated to the faith communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore in 2021. With the generosity of parishioners we simply cannot exist and work on delivering our mission. We also thank the volunteers who help us collect our finances through the plate and envelope collections. We thank those who count what comes in and we thank the parish finance committee who help with governance and oversight. Lastly, we thank Mary, our parish secretary for her work in managing these accounts.



Thanks to those who contributed to the collections last weekend.

Plate €1080.00
Shrines €1055.00
Development Fund €1745 00



Last Sunday was one of six annual collections where the plate and envelope total supports the priests of our parish. We thank all those who contribute, collect and count our finances. Mile buíochas.

We pray for those who have died recently including

Rita Keogh, Milltown Extension
Michael Dunphy, Skryne
THEY REST IN PEACE

