

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

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Parish Office

Open Tuesday - Friday

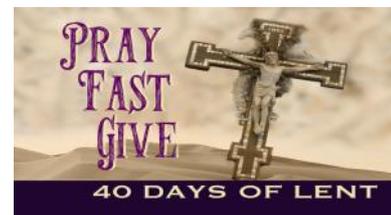
10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



8th Sunday Year C

This Sunday, three days before Lent begins, is called Temperance Sunday. Followers of Jesus, like ourselves, look at our lives to see if there are any areas that require greater self discipline. Jesus asks us to improve prayer, fasting and good works. Lent is about what we do and how we live for Christ.



As you join us for mass this Sunday, you are invited to address some area of your life that needs improvement and allow God's grace to help you be a better Christian person this Lent.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 26th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Anne Fitzpatrick, Kay Hoban Fitzpatrick & Sullivan Families Patricia & Frank Mc Hutcheon Harry Cullen, Joseph Heapes Johnny & Vincent Beggy Eileen Gannon, Pat O'Connell
Sunday 27th	9am	Jimmy Lee
Donaghmore	10am	Teresa Moran
	11am	Tom Harris, Dublin Road, (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Phyllis Kane & Brendan O'Reilly
Monday 28th	10am	Pro Populo
Tuesday 1st	10am	Sam Leonard
Wednesday 2nd		Ash Wednesday 7.30am, 10am & 7pm
Thursday 3rd	10am	Pro Populo
Friday 4th	10am	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday 5th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Con Moynihan, Robert Eager Jim Luttrell Ciarán Benville Theresa & William Tierney Peggy, Eithne, Michael & Alec Crean Peggy Murphy, Agnes Lawlor Lorraine & deceased of Gray Family Paddy & deceased of McGrath Family
Sunday 6th	9am	Ciarán Benville
Donaghmore	10am	Lawrence Kearns
	11am	Pro Populo
	12.30pm	James Clancy



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We welcome to the 11am mass today the four adults being prepared in our parish for reception as new members of our faith community. They are learning about what it is we believe and how we can be a follower of Jesus in the modern world. We thank them for their courage in becoming Catholics and thank Áine and Brendan for their catechetical work.

Decorating our Churches for Lent

In the coming days our churches will be decorated for the Lenten season. Purple is the traditional colour of Lent with the priest wearing purple vestments at most liturgies over the next 40 days. Purple represents the call to renew our lives spiritually and to reflect on what it is that Christ achieved for us through his passion and death. During this season the Alleluia is no longer said or sung at Mass and flowers on the sanctuary are kept at a minimum. This is all part of us 'stripping ourselves' back to the essentials and 'entering the desert' of Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. There will be masses to mark the beginning of Lent at 7.30am, 10am and 7pm. People will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home a little ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes in Ashbourne church from 3pm to 5pm on Wednesday. This time on Wednesday afternoon is also an opportunity for the sacrament of confession as parishioners embark on the Lenten opportunity of spiritual renewal. Why not get Lent off to a great start by making a good confession as you receive the ash and start the Lenten journey?



Trocáire Boxes 2022

Trocáire Boxes are distributed at the end of all masses today. We thank our stewards helping with their distribution. This year the Lenten giving campaign aims to support the people of Zimbabwe. Many in this country are struggling to live with the effects of climate change, covid and ongoing conflict. These are ordinary people – just like us- only much poorer. We are being asked to help these people through prayer and finance. Please take a Trocáire Box home with you. Try this Lent to help people in need and contribute to Trocáire's work for "... Love to Conquer Fear".



Extra First Friday Mass and Communion Calls

Friday next is the First Friday and the 10am Mass is offered for those enlisted on the Ashbourne-Donaghmore Parish List of the Dead. During the Fridays of Lent there will be an extra morning mass in our parish at 7.30am. This is to promote attendance at mass and create awareness of the importance of the cross in our following of Jesus. Every Friday morning of Lent Mass will take place in Ashbourne Church at 7.30am and 10am. The communion calls by the priests of our parish to the sick and housebound of Ashbourne and Donaghmore will take place on Friday next.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm

Confessions Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Relaxation of Mask Rules and Abolition of Distance Guidelines

The latest government announcement on the disbandment of NEPHET and the relaxation of covid measures means our parish can continue to rebuild itself as best it can from all the impositions, restrictions and damage of the last two years. Mask wearing in church buildings is still advised and so too is receiving communion on the hand and washing one's hands regularly throughout the day. While many things we do are no longer mandatory it is best we still respect any concerns others may have around staying and praying safely. Our stewards are happy to continue to provide hospitality and we thank them for their help. Our webcam continues to reach out to those who are in a vulnerable group and are unable to get to mass. The Irish bishop's conference will restore the 'Sunday obligation' in the coming weeks and will advise parishes in the coming months about the reception of holy communion, the restoration of a basket collection and the Sign of Peace.



Remembering Those Who Died During the Covid Era

Due to the pandemic and the severe restrictions at various times on the numbers attending a funeral some family members of parishioners from Ashbourne – Donaghmore may now wish to return to the Catholic funeral rite as in some cases fear rather than love may have abounded in the celebration of the life given to God. As we come out of the fear of gathering together the priests of the parish wish to say that they are amenable to memorial masses being offered in our parish in the coming months. The coming together of the faithful to pray for a loved one is an important part of our Christian belief and helps us to grieve with hope and dignity. If any family feels that we can help at this time we ask them to contact us.



Catechesis

It is a busy week for children, teachers and priests in our parish. On Tuesday morning Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will meet in Ashbourne Church with the children preparing for holy communion in our parish schools. That afternoon they will meet with those on the after school sacramental program. On Ash Wednesday from 11am they will meet with the 'confirmandi' as the parish prepares for Bishop's Tom visit to administer the sacrament.



Confessions in Preparation for Confirmation

With Confirmation in Ashbourne on Saturday week the final preparatory mass for those receiving the Holy Spirit will take place next Sunday. The children are asked to wear something red to mass to celebrate the Holy Spirit. It is a good thing for the 'confirmandi' to go to confession and think about who and what they are receiving in the church a few days' time. Confessions will take place from 4.30pm next Saturday with a special invitation on the children and families preparing for confirmation receiving this sacrament of renewal.



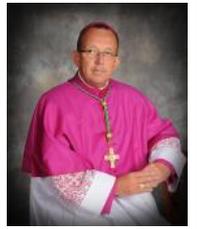
Seeking Volunteers in Donaghmore and Thanking Those in Ashbourne

On Saturday morning next, 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. Please do not leave it to others or ignore the need to give a hand. A massive thank you to the great number of volunteers who turned out on Monday morning last to clean Ashbourne Church. A job well done.



Pastoral Letter of Bishop Tom Deenihan on the Synod

Bishop Tom has written a Lenten letter to all Catholics in the diocese of Meath. This letter is posted on our church noticeboards and paraphrased in this newsletter over the next two weekends. The letter can be emailed to any parishioners who forward their email to the parish office. Bishop Tom's words encourage us as faithful followers of Jesus to mark Lent and Easter. It also asks us to participate in the synodal conversations happening across the diocese in the coming weeks.



"The synodal meetings that have been organised at deanery level throughout the Diocese on the Tuesday evenings of Lent are an opportunity for all the Baptised in the Diocese of Meath to have a meaningful say in the universal Synod that will be held in Rome in 2023.

By asking us to reflect on our experience of *communion*, *participation*, and *mission* in the life of our Church at parish level, Pope Francis is calling each of us to play our part in bringing about a new springtime for our Church.

To those of you who love your Church, I say, "tell your story!". Do not be afraid to articulate how you experience belonging to the Community of the Disciples of Christ; do not hesitate to express how your faith transforms your life and offers you hope and meaning on the journey of life. Equally, do not be afraid to express in love your concern for the future of your Church, your fears for the faith of your children and your longing for a vibrant parish community that will sustain your faith".

A 'Listening Lent'

At masses next weekend our priests will speak about the Synod and invite parishioners to be part of the synodal opportunity in Ashbourne to speak and listen to one another. First off, our parish wants to hear from people in the 18 to 35 age bracket. On the evening of Tuesday, March 8th, at 8pm 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 are important and we want to hear your voice. This 'Youth 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'.



New 'Three Tenor Concert'

The 'Three Tenor' Concert that was cancelled before Christmas due to covid restrictions has been rescheduled for Ashbourne Church on Sunday evening April 24th. The concert is at 8.30pm with the doors opening at 8pm. All tickets already sold for that concert will be honoured on that night. Tickets are on sale from the parish office during its opening hours and are also available from SuperValu at €30.00. The concert is a fund-raising event for our parish and is also part of our parish supporting the arts sector at this time. It is great that we are now able to go to a concert again and book a ticket with confidence that the event will happen.

Thanks to those who contributed to the collections last weekend. We thank those who contribute, collect and count our finances. Mile buíochas.

Plate €1475.00
Shrines €1045.00
Development Fund €2100.00



We pray for those who have died recently including

Mary Fanning, Castle Crescent
Chris Gough, Toronto
Gerry Flannery, Sligo

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

