

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

Fr. Ciarán Clarke C.C.

Tel: 01 8353149

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

Tel: 086 7327737 [For urgent enquiries]

Parish Office

Open Tuesday - Friday
10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



The owner of the fig tree in today's gospel wants the tree cut down but the gardener wants to give it another chance to prove itself. Lent is an appropriate time to reflect whether we have procrastinated in making important changes in our lives. The parable of the fruitless fig tree has a note of hope about it. A year of grace is given to it; one more chance, with extra care, devoted to it to bear fruit.



So, we ask ourselves: What area of my life feels fruitless and needs attention? What must be 'pruned' so I can bear good fruit? good deeds?

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 19th Anniversaries Occurring	7pm	Jimmy Stewart Margaret Clarke
Sunday 20th	9am	Breda Cahill
Donaghmore	10am	Terry & Christina Smith
	11am	Mass for those who died from Covid 19
	12.30pm	Mass for the People of the Parish
Monday 21st	10am	Deceased of Byrne & Kelly Families
Tuesday 22nd	10am	Mass for the Synod
Wednesday 23rd	10am	Billy, Gertrude & Deceased of McQuaid Family
Thursday 24th	10am	Hugh Gallagher
Friday 25th	7.30am 10am	Mass for the People of the Parish Joan Ellis
Saturday 26th Anniversaries Occurring	7pm	Christopher & Annie Kavanagh Joan Stevens John Gernon Mary Grogan, Mary Shanny
Sunday 27th	9am	McLoughlin & Tierney Families
Donaghmore	10am	Mass for the People of the Parish
	11am	Mass for 1st Confession Children
	12.30pm	Jimmy Smith, Racehill

'Do this In Memory Mass'

We welcome to Mass this weekend the families preparing for holy communion. This is the 5th of 6 special Masses in preparation for the sacrament. The children have been learning about the 'Our Father' and the 'Lamb of God' for today's mass- two beautiful prayers we say every Sunday. As the boys and girls come to mass in Ashbourne each weekend they hopefully are starting to see all the prayers that they have learnt and how they all fit together.



Well done to those who received their 1st Confession

Congratulations to the children attending St. Declan's parish school who received the sacrament of confession for the first time yesterday. The children were excellently prepared by their parents and teachers. We thank all involved in their preparation. We hope that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time this month will always know and celebrate God's love. Confessions take place in Ashbourne Church every Saturday from 5 to 6pm. All are welcome.

God loves you

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First Confession again this Saturday

The remaining families with children for First Holy Communion this year will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of confession on Saturday next from 4 to 6pm. Parents are asked to practise the prayers for the sacrament with their children and to talk to them about God's mercy and sin being a time when one does not show love to God or neighbour. Parents bringing their child might also consider going to confession. Confession is voluntary and a movement of the Holy Spirit but children learn from example in the home.



Parish Office Relocating to the Front Room of the Parish Hall



In the coming weeks the Parish Office will relocate from the Old National School to the front room in the Parish Hall. This is part of the plan for the parish to reduce the number of buildings that it looks after. As we all know the running costs, repair and maintenance of buildings costs a considerable amount of money but much time is also spent by the priests in our parish looking after physical structures. The parish is aiming to future proof itself by reducing the number of buildings it maintains and looks after. The costs of repair and maintenance on our parish budget has been high and we have invested greatly in buildings for priests and people through the years. We have a beautiful parish campus in the centre of Ashbourne and we thank everyone who helps us fulfil our mission of building God's kingdom of faith, hope and love.

Church and Carpark Close at 8pm

Ashbourne Church and Carpark closes each evening at 8pm. We thank everyone for their help with this. The buildings, grounds and railings are for church use only and belong to St. Finian's Diocesan Trust of which our parish is a component. We ask people to leave the wheelchair designated spaces in front of the church for those seeking easier access to our church to pray.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm

Confessions this Saturday 4 to 6pm.

Petitioning the Local Authority on Safety Matters at Donaghmore Church



The local pastoral council in Donaghmore Church are organising a petition to highlight the dangerous road and highspeed levels outside Donaghmore Church. At meetings with Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán parishioners have said that they have been trying to get something done for years. People feel that an opportunity was lost in recent months when road surfacing was done from the Ninemile stone roundabout to just beyond the Church. Some parishioners feel the situation has deteriorated with the tarring and widening of the road. Parishioners continue to ask local representatives to put in measures that will improve safety around the church. A church has existed in Donaghmore for centuries (well before the motorcar!) and the townland name suggests a church and people going back to the time of St. Patrick. A petition for signing will be available at masses from next Sunday and parishioners and friends of Donaghmore Church are asked to sign the petition and to actively ask our local councillors to positively engage in bringing forward proposals that will improve safety for those attending masses, baptisms, funerals and weddings in our parish church.

Everyone is Invited to the Synodal Meetings!

Last Tuesday Ashbourne was delighted to host another 'Listening Lent' Synodal evening. We thank all of our volunteers who are making this happen.



Synodal Meetings Conclude this Tuesday Evening

Parishioners from our neighbouring Meath faith communities of Ratoath, Curraha, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Kilcloon will join us again in Ashbourne Parish Hall next Tuesday evening at 8pm to discuss Pope Francis' questions on 'Communion, Participation and Mission'. Parishioners of Ashbourne -Donaghmore are very welcome to come along. Whether you feel distant or close to what is happening in your parish, you are invited by Pope Francis to join in discussion and prayer to discern where the Spirit is leading the Church. Pope Francis does not want another church but one that is different. One that keeps faith alive. The opportunity to have your say is right now. Those attending the Tuesday evening meetings receive a questionnaire to fill in. A box for completed questionnaires has been left in Ashbourne Church. Those unable to get to any Tuesday gathering can download a questionnaire from the diocesan website and return it by email to meathsynodalpathway@gmail.com. For more information on the synod visit www.synod.ie or www.dioceseofmeath.ie

Mass Concluding the Synodal Process in our Deanery

A Mass of Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the success of the worldwide synod will take place on the Tuesday night, March 29th, in Ashbourne Church at 8pm. All are most welcome to this celebration with the priests of our deanery.

Synodal Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and Son forever and ever.

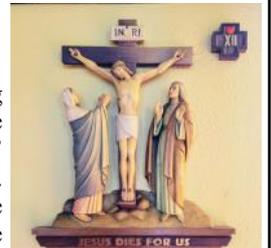
Sunday Mass Obligation

At the Spring meeting of the Irish Episcopal Conference the Bishop's encouraged parishes to welcome parishioners back to Sunday mass. The obligation to wear masks in church has been lifted but many people are welcome to continue wearing a mask. From Easter Sunday, the obligation to attend mass on a Sunday is restored. As always, those whose health is vulnerable or unwell will not be under any obligation to attend Sunday Mass and should pray at home until they are better.



Highlighting the Stations of the Cross

It is great to see so many people praying the stations of the cross during Lent. The stations remind us of the 'Way of Jesus' and invite us to find our 'Way to Jesus'. The 'Way of the Cross' remind us that we live in a broken world and despite all we go through the most important thing is God's love for us and our response to that love. You are encouraged this Lent to do the stations and as you make a sacrifice of your time to follow Jesus' journey express gratitude and love to Jesus for His supreme sacrifice on Good Friday. 'We adore You O Christ and we praise You because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world'.



Feast of the Annunciation

On Friday next, March 25th, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. The Annunciation is the moment when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said to her that she was chosen to be the mother of God. This was a joyous moment and many artists have painted the scene of the angel with Mary. Some of the words of the biblical text are used in the Hail Mary and the Annunciation is the 2nd joyous mystery of the rosary. To recall this moment each day Catholics pray the Angelus at 12 noon and 6pm. On this day, nine months from Christmas, we recall how Mary carried Jesus in her womb. We reflect also on the fact that we as followers of Jesus are asked to be messengers of joy and to announce, like the angel Gabriel, the good news of salvation.



Collection for Ukraine

We are collecting to help the refugees. There is a special collection at masses next Sunday after holy communion to help the unfortunate people of Ukraine. Alongside our prayers and appeal for peace we are asked to help in the relief efforts by donating to those in need. Monies collected in our parish will fund church organisations in Romania who are working with those who are fleeing the war. Bishop Tom Deenihan is in contact with the bishop of Iasi in Romania who is helping to shelter and feed refugees crossing the border from Ukraine. You are asked to be as generous as you can in the coming days. Our collection will go directly to those in need on the ground and to parishes in Ukraine helping the thousands of people seeking protection. You can leave a donation with one of the priests in the coming days, drop your contribution in to the parish office or have it ready for the basket next weekend.



Last Weekends Collection Totals

Plate €995.00; Shrines €670.00;

Development Fund €880.00.

Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish.



Rest in Peace

Dickie Sweeney, Muckerstown, The Ward