

# 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



## Lost and Found

Today's parable of the lost son is one of the most famous of all biblical stories. It emphasises three key ideas: Jesus comes to save the lost; God will always seek out the weak and marginal; God rejoices when a sinner repents.



Like the loving parent in today's gospel, God is always waiting for us to turn towards him. No matter what we do or where we go, God waits for us, longs for us, yearns for us to turn back to God – and when we do, we will find nothing but mercy and welcome.

## Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 26th <b>Anniversaries Occurring Mass</b>	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	Mary Fanning, Castle Crescent (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Jimmy Smith, Racehill
Monday 28th	10am	Michael & Teresa Hussey
Tuesday 29th	10am 8pm	Deceased members of the Mulholland & O'Connell Family Deanery Mass for the Synod
Wednesday 30th	10am	Gerry Ryan
Thursday 31st	10am	Michael Hoey
Friday 1st	7.30am 10am	Altar List Of The Dead Altar List Of The Dead
Saturday 2nd <b>Anniversaries Occurring Mass</b>	7pm	Paul Geoffrey Smith Peggy Ruttrell John, Mary & Dan Landers Marie Weston
Sunday 3rd	9am	John, Mary Teresa, Patrick & Tony Clarke
Donaghmore	10am	Ann, James & Eileen Murphy
	11am	Orla Dowling, Archerstown Wood (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Marie McManus & Michael Sheady



The fourth Sunday of Lent has traditionally been referred to as Laetare Sunday, from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon meaning Rejoice.

As the priest wears pink vestments the church reminds us to refresh ourselves with joy in the midst of our Lenten penance as we look forward to the happiness of Easter. Even though, we fix our minds this season on the suffering and death of our Lord, we remember too that the resurrection has already taken place.

## First Confession Mass

At masses today we welcome children joining us in praying the 'I confess' and 'Lord, have mercy' prayers. The following two Saturday afternoons from 4 to 6pm the families with children in first class in parish schools will have the opportunity to bring their child for first confession. This second sacrament of the church is about recognizing and responding to God's love. It is about learning to forgive and say sorry for our faults and failings. God's merciful love is at the heart of being a friend and follower of Jesus.

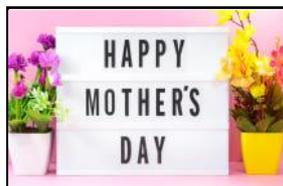
## Confession in First Class

The sacrament of confession has moved to first class in our three parish schools. This means that it is now in line with the first year of the Ashbourne after school parish program. The advantage of this move is that the children are introduced to the prayers at an earlier age and the teacher's and parent's work is spread more evenly.



## Well done to 2nd Class

Congratulations to the children attending Gaelscoil na Cille and St. Mary'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 this 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.



On this Mother's Day, the fourth Sunday of Lent we thank God for mothers. Thank God for your own mother who brought you into the world and nourished you in the faith. Thank God also for the mother we share as Christians, Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

*'A mother's love is like God's love;  
God loves us not because we are lovable  
but because it is God's nature to love,  
and because we are God's children'*

## Special Collection Today for Ukraine

There is a post communion collection today at masses to help the unfortunate people of Ukraine. Monies collected in our parish will fund church organisations in Romania working on the front line helping those fleeing the war. You are asked to be as generous as you can. All monies collected 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 this weekend. On behalf of the refugees Thank You. All monies received goes weekly to the front line victim relief efforts.



## Safety Matters at Donaghmore Church

The local pastoral council in Donaghmore Church start a petition today to highlight the dangerous road and highspeed levels outside Donaghmore Church. At meetings in recent months 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 new lining 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 and the townland name suggests a church and people going back to the time of St. Patrick. A petition for signing is available at masses this 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.



## Meditation Based on the Stations of the Cross



The stations of the cross are traditionally meditated during Lent. They remind us of the 'Way of Jesus' and invite us to find our 'Way to Jesus'. 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 use the stations as a means of meditation. As you make a sacrifice of your time to follow Jesus' journey, rise above everyday stresses by expressing 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'.

## 'Three Tenors' Concert

A 'Three Tenors' Concert will take place in Ashbourne Church on Sunday evening April 24<sup>th</sup>. The concert is at 8.00pm with the doors opening at 7.30pm. Tickets are €30 are on sale from the parish office during its opening hours and are also available from SuperValu. The concert is a fund- raising event for our parish and is also part of our parish supporting the arts sector as the country emerges from covid. We look forward to hosting this musical celebration and thank SuperValu for their help with the ticket sales.



## Planning Holy Week

Plans for Holy Week in Ashbourne are now being put in place. If you have any suggestions for the ceremonies or any ideas of a new way we might mark these sacred days please do let us know. Have a word with one of the priests or send your ideas by email to [ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com](mailto:ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com).

## Tuesday Evening Synod Mass @ 8pm

A Mass of thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit and prayer for the success of the worldwide synod will take place on Tuesday evening next in Ashbourne Church at 8pm. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this ceremony to give thanks for this time of listening and discernment and to ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the task of discerning God's will in the responses that will be received. The mass will be celebrated by the Vicar Forane of our deanery, Fr. Gerry Stuart, and with parishioners and priests of our deanery. Our deanery is part of Ratoath and is made up of the following six parishes: Ratoath, Ashbourne, Curraha, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Kilcloon.



## Please Take Time To Have Your Say

Questionnaires on Pope Francis' synodal questions of 'Communion, Participation and Mission are available in our parish church. You are invited to write down your faith experience and to communicate your thoughts and reflections to us on paper or online. A box for completed questionnaires has been left in Ashbourne Church. You can also return your completed questionnaire before Easter to the Parish Office; by post to the Diocesan Offices, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath (please mark envelope "Synod Questionnaire") or by email to [meathsynodalpathway@gmail.com](mailto:meathsynodalpathway@gmail.com). The questionnaire can also be downloaded from the Synod page on [www.diocesofmeath.ie](http://www.diocesofmeath.ie)

## Killeglad Parish Trust

The AGM of the Killeglad Parish Trust is on Wednesday evening next at 6.30pm in the Old National School. We thank all the members of the Trust for the work and time that they give to the parish in ensuring the aims of the charitable trust are met.

## First Friday Mass and Communion Calls



Friday next is the first day of April and both Masses at 7.30am and 10am are offered for those enlisted on the Ashbourne-Donaghmore Parish List of the Dead. The communion calls for April by the priests of our parish to the sick and housebound of Ashbourne and Donaghmore will take place also on Friday next.

## Meeting of Eucharistic Ministers



Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán have organised a meeting of ministers of the eucharist in Ashbourne Church for 8pm on Tuesday evening April 5<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Kevin Heery, priest in Curraha, will offer support to those involved in this ministry. It is a great source of blessing for our faith community that we have a good group of people who serve our God in this way.

## Meeting of Readers

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán have organised a meeting for readers in Ashbourne Church for 8pm on Thursday evening April 7<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Mark English, priest in Duleek, will offer support this Lent to those involved in the ministry. We thank all ministers of the word for their participation in our parish and please God you will find this gathering a positive and affirming experience of faith.



## Collection Total Amounts

17/03/2022 €1175.00  
20/03/2022 Plate €1290.00 Shrines €810.00  
Development Fund €925.00.



Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish.



Kit Gillett, Baltrasna  
Peggy Kavanagh, Kilbride