

Ticket Sales for the 'Three Tenors' Concert

Tickets for the 'Three Tenors' Concert will be available after Easter Sunday masses. About eighty tickets are already sold and hopefully another hundred or more will sell. The concert is in Ashbourne Church on Sunday, April 24th at 8.00pm with the doors opening at 7.30pm. Tickets are €30 are currently on sale from the parish office during its opening hours and are also available from SuperValu. Tickets to the concert would be a lovely Easter gift and is 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 and parishioners for their help with the ticket sales.



Youth 2000 Retreat in Ashbourne

We welcome to our parish Youth 2000 who are holding their Leinster Lenten Retreat in Ashbourne Community School this Palm Sunday weekend. Youth 2000 are a group of young people who spread the good news within the catholic church in Ireland. If you are a young catholic in the 16 to 35 age group and are interested in your faith you can find out more about all their activities on www.youth2000.ie. Youth leading Youth to the Heart of the Church



Oberammergau Passion Play – A Pilgrimage that happens every 10 years



On Palm Sunday and Good Friday the Passion of Jesus is read and reflected on by believers. In a village called Oberammergau in southern Germany every ten years a cast of 4,000 act out the passion of Jesus over 7 hours. It is one of the great pilgrimages and a theatrical spectacle that goes back to the Middle Ages. Fr. Michael will bring a group of pilgrims to the play as part of a German tour from September 7th to 11th. Pilgrims will also visit the shrine of St. Killian of Cavan, Pope Francis' beloved Icon of our Lady of Knots, three German cities and the national Marian shrine of Altötting. The pilgrimage is organised and escorted by Marian Pilgrimages. Costing €1465, the price includes flights, hotels, dinner each night and Category 2 tickets to the passion play. Details are available from Fr. Michael or anyone interested can call (01) 879 4621 or look up www.marian.ie

Supporting Gormanston Army Camp as it Opens for the Ukrainian Refugees

Our parish donated the two large tents it purchased during covid and the three fogging machines it used for the last two years to Gormanston Army Camp as it prepares to become one of the main bases for refugees in our country. Fr. Michael Hinds, army chaplain at the camp and former priest here in Ashbourne, is grateful to Ashbourne parish for responding to their appeal and says that such equipment will be put to great use in the coming months. We thank all who are supporting the parish appeal for the Ukrainian refugees fleeing into Romania. Every week our diocese forwards the money it receives from its parishes to help the relief efforts being coordinated by the church in Romania.



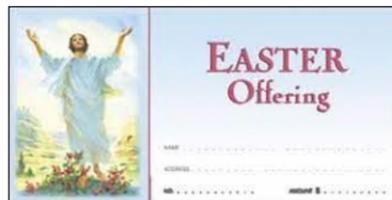
Good Friday Collection



On Good Friday a box collection is held in our parish for the support of the persecuted Christians in the Holyland and around the globe. We are allowed freely to venerate the cross and gather for prayer, mass and the sacraments but this is not the case in some parts of the world. Our contribution gives aid to the church in need especially those who suffer because they believe in the Lord.

Easter Offering Day

Next Sunday is a Parish Offering Day. Some parishioners traditionally pay their parish dues at this time. The basket collection and the envelope collection next weekend goes towards the support of the two priests of our parish. If you have a box of envelopes your donation should be made in this way to help us keep account of your contributions. We thank everyone who supports the mission of our parish.



Trocaire Boxes: "Let us never grow tired of doing good"

Just as Pope Francis reminds us that "goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity ... have to be realised each day," let us never give up on families like Thandekile's who are suffering terribly in the forgotten crises of Covid, poverty and climate change far from the media spotlight. Please fill and return your Trocaire Boxes with whatever you can on the Sunday after Easter (Sunday April 24) - or give on www.trocaire.org or by Freephone 1800 408 408 and let them know they're not forgotten. Your love is a

lifeline to a family in need.

At the start of Mass, we stand, holding our palm we look towards the main doors of the church, as Fr. Michael or Fr. Ciarán introduces the ceremony that marks the start of Holy Week. After the Old and New Testament readings we stand for the gospel and kneel at the time of Jesus' death.



The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

N The whole assembly rose, and they brought him before Pilate. They began their accusation by saying, C 'We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.' N Pilate put to him this question, O Are you the king of the Jews? N He replied, J It is you who say it.

N Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, O I find no case against this man.

N But they persisted, C 'He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.'

N When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priest and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day. Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. He said O You brought this man before me as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and let him go.

N But as one man the howled, C ' Away with him! Give us Barrabas!'

N This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder. Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back. C Crucify him! Crucify him! N And for the third time he spoke to them, O Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.

N But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder. Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased. As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large number of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

J Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, 'Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never sucked!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us! ; to the hills, "Cover us!" From if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry? N Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed. When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said J Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.

N Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him, saying. C 'He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'

N The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, C 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' N Above him there was a inscription: This is the King of the Jews. One of the criminal hanging there abused him, saying, O Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well. N But the other spoke up and rebuked him. O Have you no fear of God at all? You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

N He replied, J Indeed, I promise you today you will be with me in paradise.

N It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, J Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. N With these words he breathed his last. (All kneel and pause a moment) When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, O This was a great and good man.

N And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the woman who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.



We pray for those who died during the past week: Kenneth Gray, Crestwood Park, Fiona Enright, Bourne Court, Maureen Weir, Dartry and formerly Balrasna

Holy Thursday – Wanted: Friends, Followers and Footwashers

At 7pm on Thursday our parish gathers to recall what Jesus said and did on the night before he died at the Last Supper Passover Meal. We reflect on how Mass is a great gift to believers and the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. As part of the mass the priests of our parish wash the feet of twelve parishioners and there is a eucharistic procession with the ministers of the eucharist to the altar of repose. A period of prayer before the blessed sacrament in the Ladychapel is open to everyone as we recall Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane just before he died and will conclude with night prayer at 10pm.



Good Friday – Ashbourne Church will be Open 24 Hours



On Good Friday our church in Ashbourne will be open for 24 hours for people to come in and to pray before the cross. Our parish will have outdoor Stations at 12 noon on Friday using the old stations placed around the church campus. This event is weather permitting and if we cannot do stations outside they will take place in the church. At 3pm the main liturgy reliving Jesus' passion will take place in Ashbourne and at 7pm the Passion of Jesus will be brought to minds and hearts in Donaghmore. Everyone, who believes in Jesus, is asked to embrace the cross and to reflect and pray on this most sacred day of fasting and abstinence. We are keeping the church open to give everyone, no matter how busy or occupied on this day, an opportunity to venerate the cross.

Praying the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

The stations of the cross are traditionally prayed on the Fridays of Lent and especially on Good Friday. 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 on Good Friday (or any day this week) to use the stations as a means of meditation. On Friday next there will prayer leaflets available helping people to pray the stations and reflect on the cross. As you follow Jesus' journey, rise above everyday stresses by expressing gratitude and love to Jesus for His supreme sacrifice. 'We adore You O Christ and we praise You because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world'.



Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Masses



The first celebration of Easter 2022 will take place at 9pm (nightfall) on Holy Saturday. The new Easter candle to be used in our parish over the next 52 weeks will be blessed. Four adults will be welcomed into the Catholic Church as we bless water and renew our baptismal vows. On Easter Sunday morning our Masses will continue to celebrate the new life that Jesus' brings about through his resurrection. As we joyfully listen to the Easter readings and sing 'Alleluia' we celebrate the greatest news ever heard. Our church will have a new Easter Garden to help young and old reflect on this great mystery of faith. After the 11am Easter morning mass parishioners are invited to gather for a cup of tea in the parish hall.

Holy Week Confessions

One of the best ways we can prepare for Easter is by making a good confession. There are confessions on the mornings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 10 to 11am. This sacrament has the power to reconcile us to God and restores grace to our soul when we stray from the path of loving God and his people. 'God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins'.

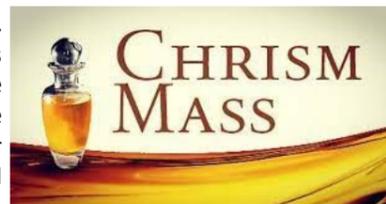
Morning Prayer at 10am



Morning Prayer will take place in Ashbourne Church each morning of the Triduum (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) at 10am.

Chrism Mass 2022

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Cathedral in Mullingar. All are welcome to attend. At this Mass the priests of the diocese renew their priestly vows before Bishop Tom and the Holy Oils to be used in the 69 parishes in the coming year are blessed. The completed synodal questionnaires from across the diocese will be brought to the mass. The mass is open to everyone to attend and it would be great if parishioners from our parish made it to this important diocesan gathering. You are asked to pray for Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán on Wednesday as they renew their priestly vows to the Lord.



H O L Y W E E K

Welcome to Mass. The most important week in the Christian calendar begins today with the reliving of Jesus' triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem a few days before he died. Please take a piece of palm as you enter the church. Branches for the celebration of Palm Sunday this year come from the Indian Missions. Palm branches will be blessed at the start of Mass and you are asked to hold them aloft during the Entrance Procession and singing of 'Hail Redeemer'. During the reading of the gospel passion text you are invited to read the part marked 'C' in green writing. You are welcome to take your palm home for your sacred space as a reminder of the events we celebrate and commemorate.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Ashbourne Church – 7pm

Good Friday – Outdoor Way of the Cross

Ashbourne Church Grounds 12 noon

Veneration of the Cross and Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Ashbourne 3pm

Donaghmore 7pm

Holy Saturday Vigil and first Mass of the Lord's Resurrection

Ashbourne 9pm

Easter Sunday Morning Mass

Ashbourne 9am, 11am, 12.30pm

Donaghmore 10am



We invite baptised believers in Ashbourne and Donaghmore to join in the Triduum ceremonies. The 2022 schedule for the Triduum in our churches is printed above. We look forward after two years of online ceremonies to properly celebrating together as a faith community the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please make every effort to attend the ceremonies and make the days truly memorable and life giving. Feel free to bring home this newsletter listing to help you prioritise your participation in the ceremonies. We thank all those who are helping to organise and put together our parish liturgies. We especially thank the ministers of the Word, Eucharist, our sacristans, stewards and our musicians for the preparations that they are making to help us celebrate the central mysteries of our faith.