

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.
(currently on sabbatical leave)

**Fr. Ciarán Clarke, C.C. and
Administrator pro tem**

Fr. Samuel Osuman, C.C.

Parish Office is now in the Parish Hall

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen

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One of the great images of Easter is the Good Shepherd. It was the favourite image of Jesus used by early Christians. Long before they ever painted a crucifix, the Christians of Rome carved images of the Good Shepherd on stone.



Today's gospel emphasises the relationship between sheep and shepherd. Just as sheep learn to trust the sound of their shepherd's voice, the followers of Jesus listen to His voice speaking to them.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 7th	7pm	Kenneth Gray, Crestwood (Months Mind) Patricia Reid, Cluain Rí (1st Anniversary) Kay Mintern Hugh Bartley Jimmy Heneghan
Sunday 8th	9am	Willie & Eileen Fitzsimons
Donaghmore	10am	Pat Murphy, Kilsallaghan (1st Anniversary)
	11am	Kit Gillett, Baltrasna (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 9th	10am	John Brennan
Tuesday 10th	10am	Deceased members of Ashbourne Dramatic Society
Wednesday 11th	10am	Kenneth Gray
Thursday 12th	10am	Chris Gough
Friday 13th	10am	Deceased of Gittinane & O'Meara Families
Saturday 14th	7pm	Vincent & Mary O'Gorman Rose Griffith
Sunday 15th	9am	Deceased of Boylan and Garvey Families
Donaghmore	10am	Fr. Tom Rafferty Pakistan (1st Anniversary) Joseph & Mary Morris
	11am	Judy Cassidy, Churchfields (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Gerry & Geraldine O'Loughlin

Welcoming First Communicants

We welcome to mass today the boys and girls who are receiving Holy Communion for the first time on the Lord's day. Thank you for coming to mass today with your family and we share in your joy on receiving the Body of Christ.



Decorating our Church for the Holy Communicants

Thank you to all those who cleaned our church and donated flowers for the special days of Holy Communion. Thank you also to the musicians and volunteer sacristans who are helping Fr. Ciarán and Fr. Samuel with the extra ceremonies.



Next Saturday there are another four first Eucharist ceremonies in our parish. These are for the children prepared through St. Declan's School and the second class of the parish program. The ceremonies are at 10, 11.30, 2 and 3.30pm. We look forward to welcoming these first communion families to our Sunday Mass next week with these boys and girls as guests of honour. We hope everyone involved but especially the children enjoy this special time. "O Sacrament Most Holy"

How To Become a Priest or Religious Sister

To become a priest or religious sister one should have a strong faith and feel a calling from God to offer one's life to the building up of the Christian community on earth. It takes several years of study, reflection and discernment for this to happen. If anyone feels that they might have a calling they should contact their local priest who will guide them in the right direction.



Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a day of prayer for vocations. People are reminded to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We pray for priests in ministry across our diocese and for a deepening of the fundamental vocation we all share in following Christ, the Good Shepherd. At masses this Sunday Fr. Samuel talks about his vocation and the call to priesthood. The second collection at mass today goes to the diocese to support vocations.



Fr. Samuel

Fr. Samuel Osuman of the Diocese of Idah in Nigeria begins ministry in Ashbourne today. Fr. Samuel stayed in our parish ten years ago as a guest of Fr. Derek. As we welcome Fr. Samuel to our parish we

continue to seek help in accommodating his needs. He will need assistance getting around our parish. He will also need help pronouncing Gaelic words and names so please do be patient with him and help him out as best you can. In order to get to Donaghmore Church each second Sunday he will be relying on parishioners attending Sunday mass there in organising a lift for him to the church. Two people have volunteered to do this and we seek more to share the task. If you can help and attend Mass in Donaghmore, please contact Fr. Ciarán through the parish office.

Looking to Support Our Parish Financially

Last weekend Fr. Michael gave a detailed report on the parish finances and a summary of the statement is on the parish noticeboard. Would you like to support our parish financially? We are all the time trying to build the number of parishioners who contribute through Standing Order or Parish Envelopes to our Parish. The easiest and most efficient way to donate to us is by setting up a standing order through your bank. Alternatively, if you would like to receive a box of envelopes the next time we distribute them to the homes of our parish please send us an email. We will be glad to put you on the list.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

A diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from 12th-17th of September. The pilgrimage is organised by Joe Walsh Tours, 69 O'Connell Street. For details contact (01) 2410800. Lourdes is one of the most famous sites in the world dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 and ever since pilgrims have gone to this shrine to pray for healing and spiritual strength. For just short of 100 years the bishop of our diocese has led a pilgrimage to Lourdes. After two years of no visitation of international visitors to the shrine due to the pandemic Lourdes is now open again for pilgrims.



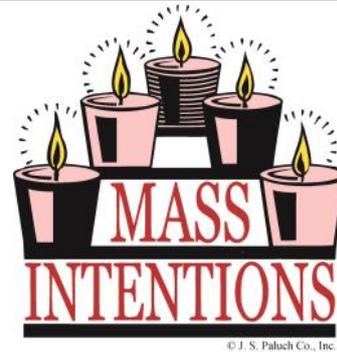
Offertory Gifts at Sunday Mass

Families booking a mass do so through the parish office and those placing an intention on a Sunday mass are invited to take up the offertory gifts of bread and wine. The gifts that we offer at mass are symbolic of the prayers that we offer together for the deceased. It is an important aspect of our faith that we pray for the dead and keep them alive in our hearts. The 11am Sunday Mass is reserved every Sunday for a month's mind or first anniversary mass. The 7pm Saturday Vigil mass is a shared intention mass and people bring forward a candle as part of the ritual of praying for the perpetual light of heaven for those who have died.



Building a Vibrant Parish Campus

The Parish Office is now open in the Parish Hall. This move is part of the parish making greater use of the buildings in Ashbourne church campus and ensuring that the parish has less buildings to maintain and pay for as it looks to the future. In recent days broadband was set up in the hall for classes and office use. The parish phone line is in the process of being changed. The opening hours of the office to parishioners remains unchanged from Tuesday to Friday from after the 10am mass to 12 noon. A temporary post box is available inside the hall doors.



Those placing an intention on a parish mass should note that there is only one mass intention taken per mass. This is a diocesan recommendation, and the celebrant of the mass takes that specific intention. A stipend for the priest offering the mass should be given at the time of booking a weekday intention. The guide in this diocese for a weekday mass is €10. The 7pm vigil mass on Saturday evening takes intentions for those whose anniversary occurs. At this 'shared intention' mass the names of the deceased are read out and a family member brings forward a remembrance candle as the community prays for those who have passed from this world. The 11am Sunday mass in Ashbourne is always reserved for those whose months mind or first anniversary occurs. Please be aware of these guidelines when meeting our volunteer office staff. The parish office is open from 10.30am to 12 noon four days a week for people calling in person to book a mass.

Monthly Calls to the Sick

The monthly visitation of our priests with holy communion to the sick and housebound will take place on Friday next, May 13th. Fr. Samuel will do the calls around the town on foot and Fr. Ciarán will do the other calls outside the town boundaries.



Second Collection Today for Vocations

There is a second collection at masses this Sunday after the distribution of Holy Communion. The collection goes towards students for the priesthood. Meath Diocese has four students in training at the moment and one ordination this summer of a young man from Rathkenny parish, Barry White.

Last Sunday's Collection Total Amounts

Plate €1530.00 Shrines €860.00
Development Fund €545.00

Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish.

We pray for those who died during the Week

Herbert Ronan, Painstown
Bridget Looney, Milltown
Di Tunnah, Castle Crescent
Josephine Walsh (nee Long) who died in Australia



Trócaire Returns 2022

Thanks to all those who have returned their Trócaire contribution in recent weeks. If you did not get round to it yet, please take your Trócaire box or envelope to the church or parish Office. In the coming two weeks our parish total will announce this year's parish return and forward it to Trócaire. Míle buíochas.

