

Happy New Year

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish
Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.
Fr. Ciarán Clarke, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Mary Mullen

Parish Office - Public Opening Times
Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Telephone: 01 8353149

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com



**Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God
Mother of Jesus**



**World Day of Prayer
for Peace**

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 31st - New Year's Eve

7pm | People of the Parish

Sunday 1st - New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

9am | Jane Robert Kellegher
Donaghmore 10am | People of the Parish
11am | Joe Carthy, Milltown (1st Anniversary)
12.30pm | Philomena Mulvaney

Monday 2nd 10am | Bridget Cotter

Tuesday 3rd 10am | Michael Dunne

Wednesday 4th 10am | Joan & Séamus Lyon

Thursday 5th 10am | Brendan Keating

Friday 6th - The Epiphany of the Lord

10am & 7pm | Altar List of the Dead

Saturday 7th 7pm | Shared Mass Intentions

Maureen & James Moloney, Theresa & John Farrell,
Margaret & Michael Hogan, Niall Mongan, Walter Murphy,
Deceased of the Churm Family, Deceased of the Davis Family,
Winnie Houlihan, Fr Peter Smith, Leslie, Kathleen & Gerard Quelch,
John Harty, Seán Conway, Thomas & Monica Carberry,
Patrick Simpson, Joe Gunnane, Seán Browne & deceased of the
Murtagh, McNamee & Browne Families.

Sunday 8th - The Baptism of the Lord

9am | Celia & Reiltín Farrell
Donaghmore 10am | William & Ann Henry
11am | John Scanlon, Deerpark (1st Anniversary)
12.30pm | Pat Keane

6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Friday is little Christmas - the twelfth day of Christmas. This is a holy day of obligation. As the Christmas Season comes to a close we remember the visit of the Magi to the stable in Bethlehem. In Ashbourne Church two Masses for the feast will be celebrated - 10am and 7pm.

Almighty God, who by the light of a star, led wise men to Jesus; by the light of your Word, lead us and all nations to the Saviour of the World and together may we bring to Him our best gifts and pay homage to Him as our King.



2022 - Parish Year in Review

2022 was the year our parish worked hard to recover pastorally, liturgically and financially from the two difficult years of covid lockdown. Fr. Ciarán took over as parish administrator in May while Fr. Michael went on sabbatical. The Parish Office was relocated to the Parish Centre during the Easter holidays to enable our parish administration and functions to be under one roof. Hospitality after the 11am Sunday Morning Mass was introduced on a trial basis in June and proved so successful it continues to this day. St. Mary's Parish School marked its 40th anniversary and the Sacramental School co-ordinated by Kay Churm marked ten successful years. Ashbourne Parish welcomed parishioners from across our deanery at five synodal meetings and we hosted local child safeguarding training for church personnel and volunteers. During the year planning permission was received for works on the Presbytery and the Old National School in the church grounds. These were some of the milestones that marked 2022 and go down in the Parish 'Chronicum'.

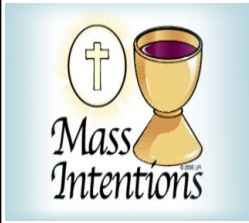


Developing our Parish in 2023

In the year ahead the parish hopes to do a synodal survey on pastoral and liturgical issues pertaining to the faith communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore. We are all the time looking to build and strengthen our parish as best we can with the volunteers and resources available at any given time. This survey will help us form a new Mission Statement to take us to the year of our Lord 2030. Work in the coming months will continue with Fr. Derek Darby in the Diocesan Pastoral Office on forming a new Parish Pastoral Council to help strengthen evangelisation in Ashbourne. Improvements to our Parish Website have been discussed for some time and hopefully the plan to improve our outreach will come to fruition in 2023. Lastly, God willing, it is hoped that works on the Presbytery on the church grounds will be carried out and will result in a modern fit for purpose building to complement our churches and Parish Centre.



2023 Month's Memory and 1st Anniversary Masses



Our parish has restored the practise of having one intention on our Sunday morning Masses. Our shared Mass for deceased loved ones with an anniversary occurring is on a Saturday evening at 7pm at which a candle is lit for the intention and families gathered. The 11am Mass and two of the 12.30pm Masses each month are now reserved for families booking a Month's Memory or First Anniversary Mass for their loved one. We kindly remind parishioners to understand that our secretary, Mary, tries her best to facilitate the wishes of families but a person's first choice is not always available. Parishioners are encouraged to book all Anniversary Masses through the Parish Office at an early opportunity, to be flexible in terms of dates (particularly on a Sunday) and families should liaise to avoid the same intention occurring twice in the Parish Diary. The stipend for the Mass being offered should be paid to Mary at the time of booking through the Parish Office. The priest who says the Mass receives this donation. Be assured if any person wishes to have a Mass said and cannot afford a stipend, the priests of our parish are happy to oblige.

January - The Baptism of our Lord



Next Sunday, we celebrate the feast of Jesus' baptism. As part of this Mass we reflect on what it means that we are baptised and we renew our Baptismal Promises. The first new year baptisms will take place on Saturday January 7th at 2.30pm.

World Youth Day 2023

World Youth Day will be celebrated in Lisbon in early August. It is a week long event, with Pope Francis, where young Catholics from all over the world gather and participate in a formative faith filled fun environment. A group of young people from the Diocese of Meath hope to be part of the event. If you are aged 18 to 35, involved in our parish, and are interested in being part of the pilgrimage please let Fr. Michael or Fr. Ciarán know before the end of January. Our parish wishes to support young parishioners in fundraising efforts towards getting to this great event. Meath Diocese WYD information is available on www.dioceseofmeath.ie



New Year Sacramental Dates

Confirmation: Saturday 11th March

First Communion: Saturday 6th and 13th May



Parish Sacramental Programme Resume

On Tuesday and Wednesday of the week of January 10th and 11th the after school Parish Sacramental Programme Classes resume in the Parish Centre. We thank Kay, the teachers and parents for ensuring that the classes run safely and smoothly during the year.



First Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in 2023

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins again on Thursday next, 5th January from 10.30am to 8pm and takes place each Thursday in Ashbourne Church. All are encouraged to spend some time for adoration and quiet prayer. It is a wonderful New Year's Resolution.

Saturday Confessions Resume

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 5pm to 6pm. All are welcome to receive the sacrament and it is another good way to begin the New Year.



Thanks to those making their Annual Offering

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán are grateful to those making their annual Christmas offering at this time. We thank those who have given to their parish in recent days. The Christmas dues in Meath Diocese make up a large part of the monthly salary paid to the priests in a parish. One third of dues to a parish come in usually at Christmas and there are five other offering collections throughout the year to raise the finance for the number two priest's welfare account. If you have not got around toward giving to us yet it is not too late. Please put your offering in an envelope and drop it into the Safe Deposit Donation Box which at the back of Ashbourne Church near the shrine of St Joseph or hand it into the Parish Office. Next week the final amounts received will be published.



A Generous Response to our Parish Register Appeal



Thank you to those who generously responded to the appeal for donations towards the restoration of two of our old Parish Registers. The parish will be in touch with you shortly to confirm the words of engraving on the new hard back protective covers. One place remains for a deceased loved one if anyone is interested in donating to the appeal. Mile buíochas.

Keeping Doors of Ashbourne Church Closed

Parishioners are asked to close the exterior doors after them when they enter the church during this winter season. When doors are left open, either in the old or new part of the church, especially on a Sunday heat escapes and it takes time for our church to heat up again for the next Mass or those entering to pray. We thank everyone for their cooperation as we try to keep ourselves warm and conserve our heat.

We pray for those who have died recently

Maeve Rochfort, Cluain Rí

Paddy Dunne, Monasterboice

MAY THEY REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE



New Year Gratitude

As the New Year begins and the Christmas lights and decorations come down in the coming days gratitude is expressed to all who help out in the parish in any way. Mile buíochas.

New Year Reflection

'Let go of the old, reach out for the new, for the past is cold and the future is due. Each year holds memories, some happy - some sad, we must treasure the good, let go of the bad. Make the most of each day at work and at play, for the old year is history, the future - a mystery'.

- Phylis Ellison.

