



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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent
18th December 2022



We light the candle of Peace
The word 'Peace' is also placed
on the Christmas tree as the
third purple candle is lit.
On the first Christmas the
angels announced that Jesus
came to bring peace and to
bring people closer to God
and to each other.
We pray this week that the peace
of Christ may reign.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 17th	7pm	Ron Tier, Victor Bolster, Myles Breslin, Biddy Randle, Maureen Jones, Paddy Stritch, Mark Ward, Christopher Cassidy, Ann Grimes, Philomena Farrell, Pat & Sheila Kearns, Noel, Kathleen & William Rock, James, Ellen & Gerard McGrath, Mary, Larry, Hughie & Mervyn Tierney, Alice, Christopher, Christy & Noel Quirke, Deceased of the Malone Family, Deceased of the Ó Scanaill Family, Bill Enright & the deceased of Enright Family, John Emmett & the deceased of Emmett Family.
Sunday 18th	9am	Jimmy & Kathleen Lee
Donaghmore	10am	Marcella & Tom Morris
	11am	Paul Kiernan, Baltrasna, (Months Mind) Ciarán Benville, The Hawthorns, (1st Anniversary) Caroline Lacey, Killelland Rise, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Charles Fitzsimons
Monday 19th	10am	Susan Cleary
Tuesday 20th	10am	Siobhán & Danny O'Connell
Wednesday 21st	10am	Terry O'Brien & Mary Keogh
Thursday 22nd	10am	Andrea Cullen
Friday 23rd	10am	John & Kathleen Moore

**Christmas Eve
Saturday 24th**

**All Christmas Masses are offered for
People of the parish**

Ashbourne Church: 5pm & 7pm
Donaghmore Church: 7pm

**Christmas Day
Sunday 25th**

Ashbourne Church: 9am, 11am & 12.30pm
Donaghmore Church: 10am

Our Parish Cribs are in Place

The cribs in Ashbourne and Donaghmore Churches were put in place in recent days. Hopefully many people will visit them in the weeks ahead. St Francis made the first crib in a cave in southern Italy and ever since followers of Jesus have put cribs up in churches and homes to help reflect the true meaning of Christ's birth. As part of Christmas Mass the cribs will be blessed.



First Holy Communion

During our Sunday Masses this week we welcome the children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May 2023, along with their families. For today's Mass the boys and girls have been learning about the Offertory Gifts. They have learnt about how Bread and Wine is made and a key part of Jesus' Last Supper. Parents are asked to talk to their children about the making of bread and wine and are encouraged to show them varieties of grapes and bread. The children's art for this Mass had them colouring in a picture on the Last Supper and the Offertory Gifts.



Birthday Card for Baby Jesus



Children are invited to make Birthday Cards to bring to Mass on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day. Junior, Senior, First & Second classes in our schools are partaking in the event, but all children can take part. The cards will be left next

to the manger. Parents might take the opportunity to explain to their child that there would be a massive 2,022 candles on Jesus' Birthday cake!!

Can you help with Music on Christmas Day at 9am or 12.30pm?

We are looking for help with music at two of our Christmas Day Masses. If you could sing a few carols at the 9am or 12.30pm Mass we ask you to contact us in the Parish Centre. It would be a lovely gift both for Baby Jesus and our faith community.



Join Us This Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass

Ashbourne
5pm 7pm

Donaghmore
7pm

Christmas Day Mass

Ashbourne
9am 11am 12.30pm

Donaghmore
10am



Greetings for Christmas

Fr. Michael, Fr. Ciarán and Mary, our parish secretary, wish you and your loved ones a Christmas of Love, Peace and Joy. We encourage you to stay safe and thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year.

**Nollaig Shona Daoibh
Go Léir**

Christmas Communion Calls

The priests of our parish will make their Christmas visit to the sick and housebound on **Wednesday**. If anyone is unable to get to mass this Christmas and would like a priest to bring them the Blessed Sacrament or administer the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Parish Office by Tuesday morning.



Confessions for Christmas

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated from **7-8pm** on **Wednesday** with visiting priests available and also from **12-1pm** on **Christmas Eve** in Ashbourne Church. It is always beneficial to go to confession for Christmas and to receive the grace of the sacrament. You are welcome to receive the sacrament at any time during these special hours.



Restoring and Preserving our Parish Registers

Three of our large parish books that record the sacraments that parishioners receive in Ashbourne and Donaghmore are currently with a liturgical book restorer. The enhancement of each book costs €300. If you are in a position to make a donation towards the restoration of one of the parish registers you can have your name or that of a deceased loved one engraved on the new hard back protective cover that will encase the register to ensure its longevity.



Parish Fundraising for Local Charities

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is coming to an end at this time. Envelopes have been sent to homes in Ashbourne and the parish has facilitated the taking up of these envelopes. You can also donate towards Ashbourne Charity Vouchers at the cash desk of SuperValu. Over the last decade over €3,000 a year in vouchers has been given to charities in Ashbourne to support those in need including SVP and the activities and outreach of Ashbourne Senior Citizens.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer, reflection and silence will take place from **10.30am-8pm** on **Thursday**. All are welcome to come to pray for our parish and each other as we keep Christ in Christmas and prepare to welcome Baby Jesus.



Parish Carol Service

Thanks to all who took part in last Sunday's Carol Service. It was a very uplifting occasion for the large congregation. Thanks to Giovanna and Ephrem for organising the choirs, soloists and instrumentalists.



Christmas Ceremonies on RTÉ and EWTN

The 11pm RTÉ Mass on Christmas Eve is from Armagh Cathedral and is celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin. Pope Francis' Christmas message and the annual 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing is broadcast at 11.45am on RTE. EWTN will broadcast midnight Mass from Bethlehem and the solemn Christmas papal Mass from Rome. Our Christmas Masses are broadcast on our parish website at ashbourneparish.ie.

Pope Francis Homily for Christmas Mass 2021



'Let us ask ourselves: can we accept God's way of doing things? This is the challenge of Christmas: God reveals himself, but men and women fail to understand. He makes himself little in the eyes of the world, while we continue to seek grandeur in the eyes of the world, perhaps even in his name. God lowers himself and we try to become great.'

Christmas Day is an offering day for the support of a priest in a parish. For those who have not got their own parish envelope special Christmas envelopes have been left in each of our churches. People unable to get to mass over Christmas can return their contribution to either the Safe Deposit at the back of Ashbourne Church or by dropping it in to the Parish Office. Gratitude is expressed to all those making a supportive offering to our parish priests at this time.



Mile buiochas.

Last Sunday & Holy Day Collections



Plate €970.00

Shrines €915.00

Development Fund €870.00

Holy Day €510.00

Thank You

Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish.

Hospitality in Parish Centre

Tea/Coffee and refreshments in the Parish Centre Hall after 11am Sunday Mass - join our last gathering for 2022.

