

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.

Fr. Ciarán Clarke, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Mary Mullen

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Come, Let us Adore Him
He is Christ the Lord



Christmas Day

Word of Welcome at Christmas

Welcome to the celebration of Mass this Christmas. As we keep Jesus at the centre of all we do we encourage you to pray the mass, sing carols and reflect with us on the Lord's great nativity. Fr. Michael, Fr. Ciarán and Mary, our parish secretary, thank you for being part of our faith community. We wish you and your loved ones a Christmas of Love, Peace and Joy.

A Christmas Blessing

"During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace, the gladness of the season which is hope and the heart of the season which is love. Somehow, not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing returns to you glad." *John Whittier*



Mass Times and Intentions

There will be Mass and a priest on duty every day in our parish over the coming days of Christmas. The celebration of daily Eucharist will be as usual at 10am starting with Mass on St. Stephen's Day. If a funeral occurs during this time it will be celebrated at 11am. Mass on Monday 26th is for Barry Maguire and Wednesday 28th for Geralyn Corcoran. Saturday 31st 7pm People of the Parish. Sunday January 1st 9am Jane Robert; 10am People of the Parish; 11am Joe Carthy, Milltown (1st Anniversary), 12.30pm Philomena Mulvaney.



Pope Francis on Family Life at Christmas



- Always remember in your family to say 'Please, Thank You and Sorry'.
- Celebrate happy moments, value everyone's achievements and successes and support one another in difficult passages of life.
- Give a kind look. Never underestimate the value of a gaze of love.
- Learn to forgive. Before we can forgive others we must learn to forgive ourselves.

- Be slow to point out the limitations of a loved one.
- Listen to the older members of the family tell their stories and encourage children and adolescents to learn from their experience.
- Be slow to judge another whose situation you be slow to judge another whose situation you do not fully understand.

Friday is the Feast of the Holy Family

Normally the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas but with that Sunday this year being the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1st, it is marked five days after the Nativity. On this feast we celebrate the fact that at a particular moment in time God identified with us by sending us His Son and that he lived in a family just like us. The family is the kernel of God's love and fabric of social cohesion. As we look at the crib in our churches and homes we thank God for the family that Jesus was born in to and the example of love that radiates from Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



"The family that prays together, stays together." *Fr. Peyton*

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Mary, Mother of God and Our Mother, nourish our family with Your faith and Your love. Keep us close to Your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement and anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Old Picture of the Holy Family

While cleaning out the garage loft last year an old print painting of the Holy Family was discovered. It will be on display in Ashbourne church next the Christmas Crib for this feast. Do take a look at it's beauty. We are wondering did this painting hang in the old church in Ashbourne before the 1981 extension?



January 1st - World Day of Prayer for Peace



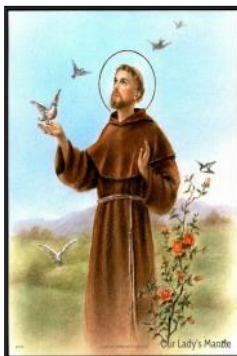
New Year's Day is next Sunday and it is the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. With Christians and people of faith throughout the world we pray for world peace. Vigil Mass will be offered on New Year's Eve at 7pm in Ashbourne Church. The first Masses of 2023 in our parish churches will follow our regular Sunday schedule. In Ashbourne Masses are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm. The New Year's Day Mass in Donaghmore is at 10am next Sunday. All are welcome and is there a better way to get the new year off to a good start?

'I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.' - Generally credited to Stephen Grellet (1773 - 1855)

Prayer for Peace *Attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let us bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is giving that one receives, it is in self-forgetting that one finds, it is in pardoning that one is pardoned, it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.



Closure of our Church and Grounds

Both the church in Ashbourne and the church grounds are closed every day at 8pm. This is the same during the Christmas holidays. We thank everyone for their co-operation in securing our parish property.



Eucharistic Adoration

The last day of Eucharistic Adoration for 2022 will take place on Thursday next, December 29th, with exposition starting after the 10am Mass and ending at 8pm.

Come, let us adore Him! He is Christ, the Lord!



The Feast of the Epiphany

On Friday week, January 6th, we celebrate the twelfth day of Christmas with the Feast of the Epiphany. It is a day when we remember the Magi following a star and bringing gifts to the crib. Morning Mass in Ashbourne will be at 10am and Mass that evening will be at 7pm.

The Wise Seek Him Still



Christmas Offerings 2022

Christmas is the principal offering day for the support of the priests of the parish. Thanks is expressed to all those who are financially supporting their parish at this time. Those who have an envelope box should use the designated white envelope. For those who have not got their own parish envelope number special Christmas envelopes are left in each of our churches. We thank all those who contribute to our parish finances and are indebted to you. Mile Buíochas.



Thanks to Volunteers in our Parish

As 2022 concludes in the coming days gratitude is expressed to all our parish volunteers. You have helped ensure this year's Christmas ceremonies are beautifully and meaningfully celebrated in our churches. It is by people being involved in their parish in a voluntary capacity that the faith community is strengthened and the message of Christ is kept alive.

Thank you

Last Baptisms of the Year



The last baptisms of the year will take place in the coming days. To facilitate families home for Christmas period baptisms will take place on Friday and Saturday afternoon next. In total there were 128 baptisms in our parish in 2022. 56 of these were girls and 72 were boys. The first New Year Baptisms will take place on Saturday, January 7th.

Wedding Congratulations

Amy McCarton & Ronan Smith-Lynch
Married December 8th in Donaghmore



Banguole Vaicaityte & Lukasz Pawelczak
Married December 8th in Ashbourne

Leanne Hynes & Niall Noone
Married 9th December in Ashbourne

Kelly Connors & Patrick Redmond
Married 14th December in Ashbourne

With best wishes and every blessing to them

For those who have Died

We pray for Darren Ellis, Crestwood Avenue
whose funeral was on Monday



We remember all our deceased family, relatives and
friends whom we miss at Christmas.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

We wish you and all our parishioners in the faith communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore a very Happy Twelve Days of Christmas. Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

