



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Parish Secretary - Mary Mullen

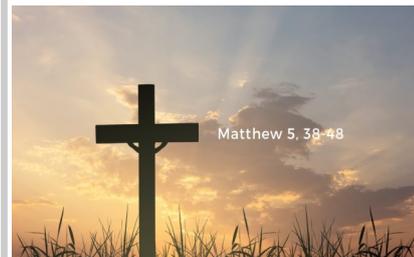
Parish Office - Public Opening Times
Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm

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Seventh Sunday of
Ordinary Time
19th February 2023



Jesus said to his disciples
“Love your enemies and
pray for those
who persecute you.”
Mt 5 38-48

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday February 18th 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	Philip O'Connor, PJ & David O'Rourke Joe Finn, Bill Fuller, Denis Dowling, Margaret & Joey Norris
Sunday 19th 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am 12.30pm	Christina Kearns Bill Henry Anne O'Neill, Huntsgrove, (1st Anniversary) <i>Hospitality in the Parish Centre</i> Kathleen Tubbritt, Rath Lodge (Months Mind)
Monday 20th 10am	Annie & Joseph Seagrave
Tuesday 21st 10am	Daisy Mills
Ash Wednesday 22nd 10am	McLoughlin & Tierney Families
Thursday 23rd 10am	Patrick & Elizabeth McDonald
Friday 24th 10am	MP & Kathleen O'Brien
Saturday February 25th 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	Harry Cullen, Mary Fanning, Anne & Steve Keane, Seamus Gohery, Jim Clancy, Peg Hardy, PJ Walsh
Sunday 26th 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am <i>Tea in the Parish Centre</i> 12.30pm	Jimmy & Kathleen Lee Teresa Moran Matty Gorman, Milltown Estate (Months Mind) Tommy & Suzanne Milner, Huntsgrove (Months Mind)

First Confession Mass

At masses today we welcome children preparing for their 1st confession. They have done art on 'God is Love'. They will join us in praying the 'I confess', 'Act of Sorrow' and 'Lord, have mercy' prayers.



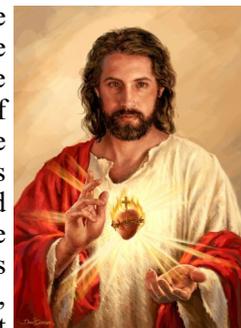
Confession, the second sacrament of the church, is about recognizing and responding to God's love. It is about learning to forgive and say sorry for our faults and failings. God's merciful love is at the heart of being a friend and follower of Jesus.



On Saturday afternoon, next from 4 to 6pm, the families with children in first year of the after school parish program will have the opportunity to bring their child for first confession. On Saturday afternoon March 4th and Saturday 25th, the children in our three parish schools will receive the sacrament with their families.

Temperance Sunday

This Sunday, three days before Lent begins, is called Temperance Sunday. Followers of Jesus, like ourselves, look at our lives to see if there are any areas that require greater self discipline. Jesus asks us to improve prayer, fasting and good works. Lent is about what we do and how we live for Christ. As you join us for mass this Sunday, you are invited to begin to reflect on addressing some area of your life that needs improvement and allow God's grace to help you be a better Christian person this Lent.



Helping the Earthquake Victims of Turkey and Syria



A collection to help the people of Turkey and Syria will take place at Sunday Masses next weekend after Holy Communion. If you can help please bring a donation for this worthy cause to Mass. We thank the stewards and counters for the extra work that they will do on our behalf in helping us respond to the plight of so many people in need. A classmate of Fr. Michael is leading the catholic church response on the ground in Syria. Fr. Tony O Riordan, a Jesuit priest, is co-ordinating at the border of the two countries as part of the Catholic Church Aid 'Caritas'.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm



Ash Wednesday

Masses at 10am and 7pm

Ashes Distributed 3 to 5pm

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent. There will be masses at 10am and 7pm. People will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home a little ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes in Ashbourne Church from 3pm to 5pm on Wednesday. This time on Wednesday afternoon is also an opportunity for the sacrament of confession as parishioners embark on the Lenten opportunity of spiritual renewal. Why not get Lent off to a great start by making a good confession as you receive the ash and start the Lenten journey?



Decorating our Churches for Lent



In the coming days our churches will be decorated for the Lenten season. Purple is the traditional colour of Lent with the priest wearing purple vestments at most liturgies over the next 40 days. Purple represents the call to renew our lives spiritually and to reflect on what it is that Christ achieved for us through his passion and death. During this season the Alleluia is no longer said or sung at Mass and flowers on the sanctuary are kept at a minimum. This is all part of us 'stripping ourselves' back to the essentials and 'entering the desert' of Lent.

Meditation Based on the Stations of the Cross

The stations of the cross are traditionally meditated during Lent. 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 this Lent to use the stations as a means of meditation. As you make a sacrifice of your time to follow Jesus' journey, rise above everyday stresses by expressing gratitude and love to Jesus for His supreme sacrifice on Good Friday. 'We adore You O Christ and we praise You because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world'.



Trocáire Boxes 2023

Trocáire Boxes are available at the end of all masses today. We thank our stewards helping with their distribution. This year's giving campaign aims to support the people of Somalia. Many in this country are struggling to live with the effects of climate change, global recession and ongoing conflict. These are ordinary people – just like us- only much poorer. We are being asked to help these people through prayer and finance. Try this Lent to help people in need and contribute to Trocáire's work for "... Love to Conquer Fear". Trocáire celebrates 50 years this



Congratulations Ephrem

RTÉ broadcasts Mass today at 11am to mark Temperance Sunday. Prayers are offered for all who are in treatment for alcoholic addiction and for those who are in recovery. The Offertory Hymn is composed by Ephrem Feeley, our talented parishioner and is a new arrangement of the Serenity Prayer. We look forward to hearing it in our parish.



Marking the Foundation of the New Church



On Tuesday we will celebrate the Foundation Day of Ashbourne Church. After the 10am Mass parishioners are welcome to the Parish Centre for a cup of tea and a chat. 22 February 1981 is the day that the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by Bishop John McCormack.

Monday Morning Clean of Ashbourne Church

Have you an hour or two to give to your faith community on Monday? Are you good at working with others? A group of parishioners will meet in the church at 11am to clean the inside of the church in preparation for the feast day on Tuesday and the arrival of Lent. All helpers will be welcome. There is no need to bring anything but a willing heart. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers in keeping our parish active and strong.



Donaghmore Meeting on Wednesday Week

The priests of the parish will meet with the parishioners of Donaghmore on Wednesday evening, March 1st at 7pm in Donaghmore Church. Every second month parishioners meet to help the priests make decisions to do with their church and faith community. We thank all those who contribute to building this partnership.



Meeting for the Weekday Sacristans

On Tuesday morning at 9.15 am Fr. Michael will meet with the weekday sacristans. We are very grateful for their work in setting up our church for masses and supporting our priests.



Data Update on Envelopes and Standing Orders

Thank you to all those who have returned their name, address and telephone number on their weekly parish envelopes. We are making good progress at updating our parish records. We ask all those who donate by standing order to call in person to the parish office by the end of February so that we can match your contribution with your name. All parish data is kept securely and for parish purposes only. We thank all of our parishioners in Ashbourne and Donaghmore who are generous to our parish. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €2270.00; Shrines €910.00; Development Fund €1195.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.



We pray for the repose of John Fox, Tara Court and Elma Orrock, Scotland. May they rest in peace. Amen.