



# 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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## First Sunday of Lent

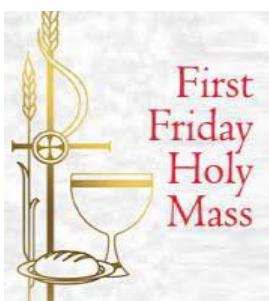
26 February 2023



*Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the Wilderness ...*

(Mt 4:1-11)

<b>Mass Times and Intentions</b>	
<b>Saturday February 25th</b> 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	Mary Fanning, Castle Crescent, (1st Anniversary) Anne and Steve Keane, Seamus Gohery, Jim Clancy, Peg Hardy, PJ Walsh, Pat O'Connell, Harry Cullen
<b>Sunday 26th</b> 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am 12.30pm	Jimmy & Kathleen Lee Teresa Moran Matty Gorman, Milltown Estate (Month's Mind) Tommy and Suzanne Milner, Huntsgrove
<b>Monday 27th</b> 10am	Ann Fitzpatrick
<b>Tuesday 28th</b> 10am	People of the Parish
<b>Wednesday 1st</b> 10am	People of the Parish
<b>Thursday 2nd</b> 10am	Sam Leonard
<b>First Friday 3rd</b> 10am	Parish Annual List of the Dead
<b>Saturday March 4th</b> 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	Orla Dowling, Archerstown Wood (1st Anniversary) Stephen Taylor, Jim Lutteral, Peg Hardy, Christopher and Annie Kavanagh, William and Theresa Tierney
<b>Sunday 5th</b> 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am <i>Tea in the Parish Centre</i> 12.30pm	People of the Parish Richard Whyte Elizabeth Costello, Crestwood Avenue, (Month's Mind) Paul Grimes, Baltrasna, (Month's Mind)



## First Friday Communion Calls

Next Friday is the First Friday in March and Mass will be offered that morning at 10am for all those on the Parish List of the Dead. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will attend to the sick of the parish on Thursday and Friday of this week. If anyone would like a priest to call with Holy Communion they should simply ask and arrangements will be put in place.

In today's gospel we hear of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Each of the three scenes follow a regular pattern of words by the tempter met by a reply of Jesus citing a verse from scripture. During the forty days Jesus fasted, stood up to temptation and clarified his mission. These forty days mirror the forty years that the Israelites spent in the desert as they journeyed to the promised land. As we start the Lenten journey we are asked to focus on our mission to renew ourselves in Christ. Make sure You Live Lent 2023.

## TEMPTATION



**LENT**

Our churches are decorated for Lent. The display in front of the altar represents the wilderness that Jesus entered the very first Lent. We are all asked during Lent 2023 to 'strip things back' that hinder our relationship with God. You will see in Ashbourne Church a Prayer highlighting the Three Pillars of Lent (Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving) beside our Lady's Statue and a cross beside the statue of the Sacred Heart encouraging us to pray the stations of the cross.



## 'Do this In Memory Mass'

We welcome to Mass this weekend the families preparing for holy communion. This is the fifth of six special Masses in preparation for the sacrament. The children have been learning about the 'Our Father' and the 'Lamb of God' for today's mass - two beautiful prayers we say every Sunday. As the boys and girls come to mass in Ashbourne each weekend they hopefully are starting to see all the prayers that they have learnt and how they all fit together. A sheet with all the mass prayers is available for parents to use with their children.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Did you know that the Stations of the Cross go back to the early Christians.. When war prevented medieval pilgrims

from visiting the actual sites in Jerusalem, artists created images representing these events so the faithful could express their devotion. The Franciscans spread this practice in the twelfth century and erected small chapels highlighting the different steps of Jesus' sorrowful journey. Since 1731 the stations have numbered 14 and they have been promoted especially during Lent and on Fridays. An extra 15<sup>th</sup> station was put up in Ashbourne church when the stations were erected on its walls in 1981. You are encouraged this Lent to do the stations. Reflections under each station in Ashbourne Church help us to enter into each scene.

### Trocáire Boxes 2023

Trocáire Boxes and envelopes are available again this Sunday in our churches. 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. Trocáire and the Lenten institution of the Trocáire Box celebrates 50 years this year. In 1973 the charity was founded by the Irish church to help provide aid to poor people in the developing world.



### Confirmation is on Saturday Week

Our parish wrote to the parents of children for the sacrament of confirmation during the week. The letter encourages parents to continue to prepare their child for the sacrament. There will be two stand-alone ceremonies in Ashbourne and the candidate, sponsor and two other people are invited to attend. Candidates and families have been asked to follow all of the normal guidelines around keeping the ceremony prayerful. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first seated basis. Parents are asked at this time to talk to their child about the pressures around alcohol that they will be exposed to in the coming years and whether they wish to take the confirmation pledge until they are 18 years of age. Next Sunday the confirmation children have their final preparatory Mass. We ask them to wear something red next Sunday as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. We wish the children all the very best and look forward to the parish celebration.



### First Confession again this Saturday

Congratulations to the children attending the after school parish classes who received the sacrament of confession for the first time yesterday. We thank all involved in their preparation. The children prepared attending St. Declan's Catholic School will receive the sacrament next Saturday from 4 to 6pm. We hope and pray that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time will always know and celebrate God's love. Parents are asked to practise the prayers for the sacrament with their children and to talk to them about God's mercy and sin being a time when one does not show love to God or neighbour. Parents bringing their child might also consider going to confession. Confession is voluntary and a movement of the Holy Spirit but children learn from example in the home.



### Donaghmore Meeting on Wednesday

#### PARISH COUNCIL

The priests of the parish will meet with the parishioners of Donaghmore on Wednesday evening next, March 1st, at 7pm in Donaghmore Church. Every second or third 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.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



The 21st consecutive Meath Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land takes place from November 24th—December 2nd. The cost is €2095 per person sharing (half board). For further information contact Navan Travel (046) 9068600. Perhaps 2023 is Your Year To Go To The Holy Land.

### Accounts for 2022 Handed Over



Last week Fr. Michael handed over the parish accounts to the diocesan accountant to be audited and checked. The accounts will be then presented to the parish finance committee for approval and publication. The accounts of our parish are part of the 69 parishes that make up the diocesan charity under

the name 'St. Finian's Diocesan Trust'. While the monies are correlated together as part of charity legislation each parish retains its autonomy and is responsible for its own fundraising and expenditure.

### Data Update on Envelopes and Standing Orders

We are making good progress at updating our parish envelope records. We now ask all those who donate by standing order to contact the parish office 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.

#### Offering Envelopes



Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate 1550.00; Shrines €850.00; Development Fund €1160.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.

### Collection For Earthquake Victims



A special collection to help the suffering people of Turkey and Syria takes place at Sunday Masses today after Holy Communion. We thank the stewards and counters for 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 aid at the border of the two countries as part of the Catholic Church Charity 'Caritas'. Please help deliver aid to Fr. Tony and others working on the frontline.

We pray for the repose of our parishioners who died in recent days.



Olive Curran, Baltrasna,  
Ciarán Gibney, Racehill Lodge,  
Terry Brennan, Maple Grove,  
George Wilton, Alderbrook Glen,  
May they rest in peace. Amen.