



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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Third Sunday of Lent

12 March 2023



**Jesus said to the woman at the well
'Give me a drink'.**

(John 4:9)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday March 11th 7pm	Mass for the Faith Communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore
Sunday 12th Donaghmore 9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	Jimmy Stewart Laurence Kearns Marita Ryan, Bourne Avenue, (Months Mind) Olive Fox, Frederick Court, (1st Anniversary)
Monday 13th 10am	Hugh Gallagher
Tuesday 14th 10am	Bobby Eager
Wednesday 15th 10am	Thomas, Daniel & Thomas Patrick Goldrick
Thursday 16th 10am	Mick Breslin
St. Patrick's Day Friday 17th 9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	Harry Cotter Mass for the Church Feast Day Andy & Mary Thynne, William & Maureen Cooney People of the Parish
Saturday March 18th 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	Anne & Jimmy Gough, Mary Dunne, Michael Larkin, Philomena Casale, Tommy Byrne
Sunday 19th Donaghmore 9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	Breda Cahill Christina & Terry Smith People of the Parish /Tea Parish Centre Kit Gillett, Deerpark, (!st Anniversary)

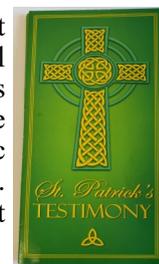
Celebrate St. Patrick



St. Patrick's Day is on Friday. There is no better way to celebrate our patron saint than to attend Mass. Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, **Donaghmore, is at 10am. Ashbourne Masses are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm.** The 11am will

be in English and Irish with mass leaflets available with the Irish mass responses. People are encouraged to wear shamrock to Mass and wear a little bit of green as a nod to our patron saint. Shamrock will be blessed at masses as a reminder of how this Welsh man explained the Blessed Trinity to the early Christians on our island.

A beautifully presented leaflet highlighting the words of St. Patrick will be available after masses on St. Patrick's Day. They are complimentary and were given to us by the Evangelical Catholic Initiative. The inspiring words of St. Patrick are powerful and give a great insight in to the great saint of our Isle.



St. Patrick lit the first Easter fire on the Hill of Slane and at this site on St. Patrick's Day there is Evening Prayer at 5pm with a Rosary Procession to the church for 6pm Mass. This is organised by the Franciscan Sisters of the Reknewal.



Congratulations to the 232 children from our parish confirmed yesterday in Ashbourne Church. Thanks to the parents, children and teachers for extending a warm welcome to Bishop Tom. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán express thanks to all those who helped them to organise the two ceremonies. Thanks to Giovanna and Ephrem for providing the liturgical music and to Arthur and the stewards who helped everything to run smoothly.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our Hearts with the fire of God's Love.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ashbourne takes place on Friday afternoon at 2.30pm. The parish is glad to help the organisers. We wish everyone an enjoyable day. We particularly wish the faith community of Donaghmore a very 'Happy St. Patrick's Day' as they celebrate their church patron. **Beannachtaí na féile Pádraig orainn Go Léir.**



 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm
Confessions This Saturday 5pm - 6pm

 Rosary Monday to Friday at 10.30am

What are you doing for

Lent?



Pray



Fast



Give

Trocáire Boxes and envelopes remain available in our churches. 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. This year's dual giving campaign aims to support the people of Somalia and those in the Earthquake Recovery Region in Turkey and Syria.



The stations of the cross are traditionally meditated during Lent. We have beautiful stations in both our churches. They remind us of the 'Way of Jesus' and invite us to find our 'Way to Jesus'. You are encouraged this Lent to use the stations as a means of prayerful 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.

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Plans for Holy Week in Ashbourne are now being put in place. If you have any suggestions for the ceremonies or any ideas of a new way we might mark these sacred days please do let us know. Have a word with one of the priests or send your ideas by email to ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com.



HOLY WEEK



During our Lenten Journey through the Power of the Holy Spirit may we focus on
Prayer as love for God,
Fasting as love for ourselves and
Almsgiving as love for others.

All Masses in Ashbourne and Donaghmore Churches are booked through Mary in the Parish Office. Stipends for each Mass should be paid at the time of booking. Parishioners are encouraged if possible to attend the mass for their loved one and join the priest and faith community in praying the Mass. Both Churches now have a Shared Mass for those whose anniversaries occur. The Parish Office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. Stipends are an Offering in support of the priest celebrating the Mass.



As part of ongoing consultation with parishioners Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will undertake a Parish Survey beginning at Masses the weekend after next. There are a number of issues they wish to hear parishioners views on. Unlike the 'Listening Lent Synod' questions of last year, this survey and listening exercise will be about issues to do with our own faith communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore. If you have any suggestions for a question or two they might ask please let the parish office know in the coming days.

On Monday it will be ten years since Cardinal Bergoglio became Leader of our Church. We pray for Pope Francis and thank God for the his pontificate. He is the 266th Pontiff and the first from the Southern Hemisphere. Pope Francis has promoted God's mercy and in simple ways radiates Christ to the world. At the moment Pope Francis is leading a worldwide consultation on the Catholic Church in the modern world. Pope Francis appointed Tom Deenihan, priest of Cork and Ross Diocese, as Bishop of Meath on 18 June 2018 as successor to Bishop Michael Smith.



Bishop Michael Smith, our retired bishop, celebrated on Thursday last sixty years of priesthood..Bishop Michael was thirty four years a bishop and appointed by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1984. Bishop Michael was a regular visitor to our parish and we thank God for his dedication and service to the Diocese of Meath. We wish him continued good health and cheerfulness of spirit.

A parish finance committee meeting will take place at 6pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesday evening, March 22nd. At this meeting the committee will be updated on the refurbishment works on the presbytery and the recent efforts to update data on those parishioners who contribute to the parish by means of an envelope or standing order.



Finance Committee Meeting

A second collection happens at Masses today after Holy Communion. This collection goes towards the annual insurance premium of €16,016. Insurance is paid on parish related activities and all our buildings including three of Ashbourne's protected structures namely, Ashbourne Church, Parish Centre and Donaghmore Church. We thank our parishioners who support the collection and our stewards for their help in taking up both collections. Last Sunday's Contribution Totals were Plate €1755.00; Shrines €680.00; Development Fund €1120.00. Mile buíochas.



We pray for our parishioners who died in recent days,

Maureen Enright, Cluain Rí and Chris McLoughlin, Baltrasna
May they rest in peace. Amen