



# 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

Website: [ashbourneparish.ie](http://ashbourneparish.ie)

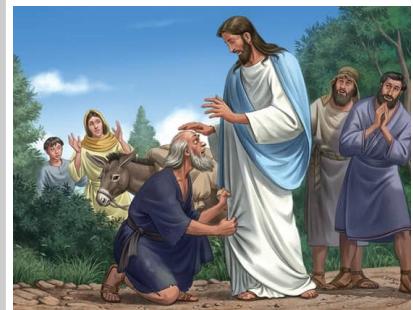
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Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

19 March 2023



**Jesus restores sight to the blind man.**

(John 9:1)

Mass Times and Intentions	
<b>Saturday March 18th</b>	7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	9am Donaghmore 10am 11am 12.30pm
<b>Monday 20th</b>	10am
<b>Tuesday 21st</b>	10am
<b>Wednesday 22nd</b>	10am
<b>Thursday 23rd</b>	10am
<b>Friday 24th</b>	10am
<b>Saturday March 25th</b>	9am 7pm <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	9am Donaghmore 10am 11am 12.30pm
	Joan Stevens Paddy & Elizabeth Murray Terry Tormey, Donaghmore (1st Anniversary) / Centenary Mass for Deceased members of Donaghmore & Ashbourne GAA Michael & Philomena Allen



The fourth Sunday of Lent has traditionally been referred to as 'Laetare Sunday', from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon meaning 'Rejoice'.

As the priest wears pink vestments, the church reminds us to refresh ourselves with joy in the midst of our Lenten penance as we look forward to the happiness of Easter. Even though, we fix our minds this season on the suffering and death of our Lord, we remember too that the resurrection has already taken place.

The second scrutiny for those adults being baptised at Easter takes place at Mass today. We continue to pray for them and each other as we journey through Lent and hear today's gospel to have 'eyes of faith'.



Fr. Michael celebrated Mass on Wednesday for the children and families finishing the after school sacramental preparation. We thank Kay Churm and their teachers for the help in providing this parish outreach to parents with children in non parish schools. In May the parish will offer Mass for those finishing their primary education in our parish schools.

Pilgrimage to Loughcrew Next Sunday. Contact Tony Malone on 087 9526337

On this Mother's Day, the fourth Sunday of Lent we thank God for mothers. Thank God for your own mother who brought you into the world and nourished you in the faith. Thank God also for the mother we share as Christians, Mary, the Mother of Jesus.



*'A mother's love is like God's love;  
God loves us not because we are lovable  
but because it is God's nature to love,  
and because we are God's children'*



The children prepared in St. Mary's School and Gaelscoil na Cille will receive the sacrament of confession on Saturday next between 4pm and 6pm.

Last year this sacrament has moved to first class in our three parish schools. This means that it is now in line with the first year of the Ashbourne after school parish program. The advantage of this move is that the children are introduced to the prayers at an earlier age and the teacher's and parent's work is spread more evenly.

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped organise our St. Patrick's Day Masses on Friday last. Míle buíochas.



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



Rosary Monday to Friday at 10.30am

## Parish Prayer for Lent

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.

### Pray

- Attend Mass
- The Stations of the Cross
- Reflect on Scripture

### Fast

- Reduce Screen Time
- Cut Back Food and Drink
- Refrain from Negativity

### Give

- Make Time for Others
- Donate to Charity
- Build Community



### Tidying Donaghmore Church

On Saturday week, April 1st, volunteers from the faith community of Donaghmore are invited to give some time and energy to clean, dust and enhance their church. This annual clean up begins at 11am and is in preparation for Holy Week. All helping hands and hearts will be greatly welcomed.



### Helping our Eucharistic Ministers Understand Passover



A gathering for Ministers for the Eucharistic will take place on Thursday evening week, March 30th, at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Exactly a week before Holy

Thursday, we will re-enact a celebration of the Jewish Passover meal so that our understanding of the Eucharist will be enhanced. Ministers will be contacted beforehand so we know how many places we are setting our tables for. This celebration was last held in Ashbourne parish n 1986.

### Bethany—Ashbourne Parish Bereavement Support

The parish bereavement group, Bethany, is holding an open night on Tuesday evening next in the Parish centre from 7-8pm. If you are bereaved, and would like someone to talk to in confidence, the Bethany Bereavement Group will provide a listening ear. Their telephone number is (087) 2715222.



**Bethany**  
Bereavement Support

### Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA Club Celebrates 100 Years



Next Sunday's 11am Mass will be offered for Deceased Members of Donaghmore - Ashbourne GAA Club. The club was established in a field in Greenogue one hundred years ago. As the club celebrates its centenary year our Parish wishes the club continued success at engaging people in sport and promoting physical activity.

## Parish Survey



In next weekend's parish newsletter there will be questions to do with our parish for you to ponder and reflect on. You will have an opportunity to put pen to paper and to return your comments or suggestions on the issues raised. This is part of Ashbourne parish's 'Listening Lent' initiative and carries on the consultative work of the three year synodal process. You are encouraged to take part in our Survey and to help our parish continue to witness to Jesus in the modern world.

### Keeping our Cemeteries Tidy

All those with plots and niches in our parish cemeteries are



reminded to bring home old flower pots, withered wreaths and burnt candle ends. At times these are thrown to one side, dumped in a hedge or left for others to take away. This is disrespectful to people who own other plots and to parish property. We are grateful to all the families and volunteers who help maintain our parish cemeteries to a high standard but must remain vigilant to ensure dumping is kept at bay.

### Feast Day of St Joseph –20th March

Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God .... In marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment in calling him a "just" man. This just man lived his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life ... a model for fathers everywhere.

Tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. A statue of 'Sleeping St Joseph' made famous by Pope Francis is on display in Ashbourne Church . It depicts St Joseph asleep as it was very often in his dreams that Joseph was guided by God.



"I would like to tell you something very personal. I have a great love for St. Joseph because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have a statue of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep he is taking care of the church. Yes, we know he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph so that he can dream about it. In other words, I tell him: pray for this problem". Pope Francis

**Holy Week Schedule** Ashbourne Times: Holy Thursday 8pm; Good Friday Way of the Cross 12 noon; Veneration 3pm; Holy Saturday Vigil 9pm; Easter Sunday Masses 9am, 11am, 12.30pm Donaghmore Times Donaghmore Good Friday Devotions 7pm; Easter Sunday Mass 10am.

**Parish Finance Committee** Meeting in the Parish Centre at 6pm on Wednesday evening. Last Sunday's Contribution Totals were Plate €1205.00; 2nd Collection €1045.00. Shrines €1020.00; Development Fund €770.00. Mile buíochas.



We pray for **Mary Farrell, Milltown Estate** whose funeral Mass took place in Donaghmore Church on Monday and **Pat Bobbett, Fleenstown House** whose funeral took place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday. Both were buried in Greenogue Cemetery. **Noreen Sullivan, Cork; Adrian Ayres, London**. May they rest in peace. Amen.

