



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

Telephone: 01 8353149

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Lent

5 March 2023



***The Transfiguration
of Jesus
on Mt. Tabor***

(Mt: 17 1-9)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday March 4th 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, Fergus Duignan, Dec'd Murtagh Family
Sunday 5th 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am 12.30pm	William Elliott Richard Whyte Liz Costello, Crestwood Avenue, (Month's Mind) Paul Grimes, Baltrasna, (Month's Mind)
Monday 6th 10am	Con & Michael Moynihan
Tuesday 7th 10am	John Farrell
Wednesday 8th 10am	Deceased of the Joyce & Ryan Families
Thursday 9th 10am	Margaret & Thomas Murphy
First Friday 10th 10am	People of the Parish
Saturday March 11th 7pm Vigil Mass as Usual	Confirmation Ceremonies— 11am—St. Declan's and Gaelscoil na Coille. 3pm— St. Mary's and the After School Program
Sunday 12th 9am Donaghmore 10am 11am <i>Tea in the Parish Centre</i> 12.30pm	People of the Parish Laurence Kearns Marita Ryan, Bourne Avenue, (Months Mind) Olive Fox, Frederick Court, (1st Anniversary)

Confirmation on Saturday



Bishop Tom Deenihan will confirm 233 children from our parish on Saturday next at 11am and 3pm in Ashbourne Church. Parents and children are asked to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Tom and to help make the ceremony both prayerful and meaningful. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán express thanks to all those helping them to organise the two ceremonies. At this time, all of us who believe are asked to be especially conscious of the role of the Holy Spirit and the call of God to live Spirit filled lives on earth.

*Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of the faithful and
enkindle in us the fire of your love*

Wearing Red in Preparation for the Holy Spirit

We welcome the 'confirmandi' to Mass today. We encourage the children and their families to pray this Mass for themselves and each other. We hope that the children and families will have a lovely day on Saturday but above all know the joy and strength of the Spirit always. We thank all the children who wear something red as they come to mass today and prepare for receiving the sacrament that celebrates the fire of God's love.



Well done to those who received their 1st Confession



Congratulations to the children attending St. Declan's parish school who received the sacrament of confession for the first time yesterday. The children were excellently

prepared by their parents and teachers. We thank all involved in their preparation. We hope that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time this month will always know and celebrate God's love. Confessions take place in Ashbourne Church every Saturday from 5 to 6pm. All are welcome.

Lenten Billboards



Both 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 this season to 'strip things back' that hinder our relationship with God. You will see the two billboards outside Ashbourne Church highlighting the Three Pillars of Lent - Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm
Rosary 10.30am Monday to Friday

No Confessions this Saturday
due to the visit of Bishop Tom for Confirmation

Take on the Challenge of Lent



Pray



Fast



Give

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.



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 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

Keeping Our Churches Tidy

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the clean up of Ashbourne Church on Shrove Tuesday. It was great to see such voluntary spirit. We ask everyone to keep our churches tidy by taking home their newsletter or returning it to the newsletter table after Sunday Mass. We also ask people not to leave any literature or prayers in the church as such material must be approved.



Church and Carpark Close 8pm

Ashbourne Church and Carpark closes each evening at 8pm. We thank everyone for their help with this. The buildings, grounds and railings are for church use only and belong to St. Finian's Diocesan Trust of which our parish is a component. We ask people to leave the wheelchair designated spaces in front of the church for those seeking easier access to our church to pray.

As part of ongoing consultation with parishioners Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will undertake a Parish Survey at the end of March. 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. Many thanks.



Ashbourne Celebrates International Women's Day



All are welcome tomorrow evening (Monday) at 8.30pm to a musical celebration of International Women's Day in Ashbourne Church. The 45 minute free concert is led by 'Schola Hyberniae' and

Ashbourne Choral Ensemble.

St. Patrick's Day 2023

St. Patrick's Day is next Friday week. Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, Donaghmore, will be at 10am. Ashbourne Masses will be at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm. The 11am will be bilingual. People are encouraged to wear shamrock to mass and children especially are encouraged to 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. We look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick in our parish. We welcome the return of the St. Patrick's Day Parade to our town.



On Friday next there is a coffee morning from 10.30am to 1pm in the Ashbourne House Hotel in aid of St. Francis Hospice. Meals on Wheels are also collecting for their great work at this time. Please support if you can.

A second collection will be taken up at Masses next Sunday after Holy Communion. We thank the stewards for their help with this task. A second collection takes place in our parish every second month (ie. January, March, May, July, September and November). This collection will go towards the insurance premium paid by our parish. Last week a representative from Allianz visited our parish to go over our premium and help the parish update its safety statement. This year our insurance with Allianz is costing €16,060. 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.



A huge thank you to all those who donated to the appeal supporting those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Over five and a half thousand was collected from you the mass going people. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €2360.00; Shrines €1035.00; Development Fund €975.00. Turkey/Syria, Collection €5540.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.



We pray for those who died in recent days,
George Wilton, Alderbrook Glen,
Ciss Doyle, Tudor Grove & Kells,
May they rest in peace. Amen