

# 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

ashbourneparish.ie

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year A

Vocations Sunday



*The sheep follow because they know his voice.'*

John 10:4

### Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	PJ McGrath , Castle Crescent (1st Anniversary) Michael Quinn Edmond & Jimmy O'Donnell
Sunday 30th Donaghmore	9am	Dec. McLoughlin & Tierney Families
Hospitality in the Parish Centre Afterwards	10am	Anne, Patrick, Eileen, James & Betty Murphy with Countryside Blessing.
	11am	Patrick Bobbett, Fleenstown House (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Maureen Enright, Clúain Rí (Months Mind)
Monday 1st	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 2nd	10am	Fr. Owen McKenna
Wednesday 3rd	10am	Deceased members of the Ashbourne Dramatic Society
Thursday 4th	10am	Madge Finn
Friday 5th	10am	Parish List of the Dead
Saturday 6th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	10am 11.30am 2pm 3.30pm 7pm	St. Declan's School Group 1 St. Declan's School Group 2 St. Declan's School Group 3 After School Programme Group 1 Herbert Ronan, Carmel Cawley, James & Maureen Moloney
Sunday 7th Donaghmore	9am	Kay Mintern
	10am	Fr. Tom Rafferty
	11am	Mary Farrell, Milltown Estate (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Joseph, Emma & Colette Flannery

### Monthly Calls to the Sick

Fr. Michael will do his communion calls around the town on Tuesday and Thursday while Fr. Ciarán will do all his calls outside the town boundaries on Friday. Mass on the First Friday will be offered for all those on the Ashbourne-Donaghmore Parish List of the Dead.



### Vocations Sunday

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations or Vocations Sunday as it is more commonly known, is celebrated each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is Good Shepherd Sunday. People are encouraged to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We pray and support also good priests in ministry across our diocese and for a deepening of the fundamental vocation we all share in following Christ, the Good Shepherd.



### The Good Shepherd Image



One of the great images of Easter is Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The early Christians in the catacomb graves of Rome carved images of the Good Shepherd on stone expressing belief in the resurrection.

Today's gospel emphasises the relationship between sheep and their shepherd. Just as sheep learn to trust the sound of their shepherd's voice, the followers of Jesus listen to His voice speaking to them and follow Him to new pasture.

### First Holy Communion

Next Saturday there are four first holy communion ceremonies in our parish for the children prepared through St.

Declan's School and the After School Parish Program (Class 1). The ceremonies are at 10am, 11.30am, 2pm and 3.30pm. We look forward to the occasion and then to welcoming these first communion families to our Sunday Mass next week with these boys and girls as 'Guests of Honour'. We hope everyone involved but especially the children enjoy this special time for our faith community.



*We Wish You a Very Pleasant Bank Holiday Monday*

## Trócaire Total 2023



A total of €3,265 was collected in our parish for Trócaire this Lent. On behalf of this church supported charity we thank you, the parishioners of Ashbourne and Donaghmore for your generosity and outreach to the poorest of the poor. We thank all who contributed to the Holy Thursday Collection and those who returned their Trócaire box or envelope to us in recent weeks. Trócaire was formed 50 years ago and works hard on our behalf in the developing world to alleviate poverty, injustice and suffering.

## After School Sacramental Classes 2023- 2024

Registration for the parish after school classes starting in September has begun. Thank you to the parents who attended the preliminary meeting on Tuesday night last. Registration forms with details of the classes and all that is involved for parents are available from the parish office and from our priests. Completed forms and payment for the first term should be returned to the parish office before the last day of May.



## Easter Confirmation of Adults



Last Sunday during the 11am Mass Banguole Vaicaityte and Erika Giacotto were confirmed. We congratulate them and thank Brendan and Áine O Reilly for their work over the last eight months in preparing and supporting them on

this journey of faith. This photograph shows the candidates, their sponsors, their catechists and the priests of the parish.

## Cemetery Devotions

The Annual Blessing of Graves will take place in our parish in the coming weeks. Mass for those interred in Ashbourne Church Cemetery will take place in Ashbourne Church on

Saturday June 3rd at 7pm followed by the blessing of the graves immediately afterwards at 8pm. On the following Saturday evening of June 10th the 7pm Vigil Mass will be offered for those interred in St. Declan's Cemetery with blessing of the graves afterwards at 8.30pm. The graves in Donaghmore will be blessed following the Sunday morning Mass of June 4th. The dates and times of devotions in Greenogue and Killelland will be announced next week.



## May—Month of Our Lady



For 750 years May is a Month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Tomorrow, May 1st, we celebrate May Day. It is a day when the May bush is put up, the dew on the grass

welcomed and flowers placed around a picture or statue of Mary. As part of the 10am Mass in Donaghmore this Sunday there is a blessing of the countryside. As part of the 10am Mass on Monday a crown is placed on our Lady's statue. The children in Senior Infants in our parish schools are being introduced to the Hail Mary and on the last weekend of May will join us at Sunday Mass to lead us in praying this great prayer of our Church.

## Celebrating St Dymphna

A beautiful stained glass window behind the altar in Ashbourne Church depicts St. Dymphna. Two excursions from our parish are being planned in the coming weeks to highlight our link with St. Dymphna. A bus will leave the grounds of Ashbourne Church at 12 noon on Monday, May 15th, (her feast day) to travel to the National Gallery to view the Belgian altarpiece featuring



various scenes from Dymphna's life. Up to thirty parishioners are allowed access to this temporary exhibition and the only cost is the price of the bus fare which is €15. At 2pm on Thursday, May 18th a group of fifteen parishioners have been granted permission by the National Museum of Ireland to privately see and learn about the relic called *bachall Dhamhnaid* (Dymphna's staff). If you are interested in coming along and are able to meet us at 2pm at the Kildare Street entrance (next the Dáil) please let us know. Entrance is free but limited to a small group. Both trips should be booked through the parish office or with Fr. Michael or Fr. Ciarán.

## How One Becomes a Priest or Religious Sister

To become a priest or religious sister one should have a strong faith and feel a calling from God to offer one's life to the building up of the Christian community on earth. It takes several years of study, reflection and discernment for this to happen. If anyone feels that they might have a calling

they should contact their local priest who will guide them in the right direction.

**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.  
THEY NEED US.  
WE NEED THEM.**

*Vocations Are Everybody's Business*

## Second Collection Today for Vocations

There is a second collection at masses this Sunday after the distribution of Holy Communion. The collection goes towards students for the priesthood. Meath Diocese has two students in training at the moment. A young man from Rathkenny parish, Barry White was ordained last summer. Last Sunday's Collection Total Amounts: Plate €1590.00; Shrines €810.00; Development Fund €825.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who generously give to our parish.



We pray for Liam Shelly of Archerstown Wood whose funeral took place in Donaghmore Church on Thursday last. May he and all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.