



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish
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Easter Sunday

9 April 2023

The Lord's Resurrection



*This day was made
by the Lord:
we rejoice
and are glad.*

Easter Octave Mass Times and Intentions

Holy Saturday April 8th	9pm	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 9th	9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	People of the Parish Maureen, Aubrey & Niamh Weir Judy Cassidy, Cherry Lane (1st Anniversary) Chris McLoughlin, Baltrasna (Months Mind)
Easter Monday 10th	10am	John Fields
Easter Tuesday 11th	10am	Catherine Conroy
Easter Wednesday 12th	10am	Billy Dunne
Easter Thursday 13th	10am	Thomas Mintern
Easter Friday 14th	10am	Bridgit, James & Denis Kelly
Easter Saturday 15th	7pm	Pat Doherty, William McGrath, Patricia & Frank Mc Hutcheon Nora & Patrick Muldoon Mary & Andy Roche Geoff & Vera Smith
2nd Sunday Easter April 16th	9am 10am 11am 12.30pm	John & Molly McCabe Joe & Elizabeth Kieran Collette O'Herlihy Patrick Bruton, Kilbride (1st Anniversary) Gerald Dowd

Rejoice for Jesus is Risen from the Dead, Alleluia!



The season of Easter begins today and lasts for 50 days. Our churches are festooned in colour and with symbols of new life. The Paschal Candle is prominent, the priest's vestments are white and Alleluia is sung again. You are invited today, the greatest of all days, to rejoice in Jesus. For we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our Song.

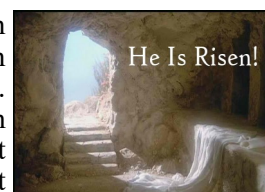
Easter Greetings



To all Our Parishioners, We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Easter Season. Thanks to all of you who took the time out to celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection Ceremonies. Thanks to all our volunteers and helpers: Eucharistic Ministers; Readers; Stewards; Choir members; Altar Society Members; Liturgical Art Helpers, the Volunteer Sacristans and all those who help us keep our parish vibrant and strong. Your help and cooperation (support) is much valued and appreciated by parishioners and priests alike (at times like this and right throughout the year. We hope that the journey through Lent and Holy Week, to Easter itself, will bring many blessings upon you and your families, and that it has brought you closer to Christ and to each other.

Easter Garden

For the second year in a row an Easter Garden has been put in place in each of our churches. The garden is made up of an empty tomb and figurines that represent the events of the first Easter Sunday morning. Do have a good look at our Easter space and dwell on the biblical scene portrayed. If you have children with you bring the scene to them. When visiting other churches perhaps get an idea of how other parishes do their garden. 'They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb ... ' (Lk 24:2)



Parish Hospitality


You are most welcome to come for a cup of tea or coffee after the 11am Mass in the Parish Centre this Easter Sunday. There are special treats for all young members of our parish.




'Urbi Et Orbi' and Message to the World



Pope Francis' Easter Message and Blessing will be broadcast live from the balcony of St. Peter's this Easter morning on RTE and EWTN.

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

 Rosary Monday to Friday at 10.30am

Easter Holy Water



Holy Water was blessed during the Easter Vigil and will be left in the baptismal fonts of our churches throughout the Easter season. New Holy Water is available for people to take home from the silver container at the sacristy door facing Ashbourne Church Cemetery. Holy Water is a sacramental that reminds us of the new life that we are called to as believers.

During this season we celebrate our baptism and reflect not that we were baptised but that we are baptised and are called every single day to the 'living waters' of the Lord.

New Paschal Candle

Take a look at our new Paschal Candle. The Paschal Candle represents Christ who is the Light of the World. Five grains of incense were inserted into the candle at the Easter Vigil in the form of a cross. These represent the five wounds that Christ suffered in his hands, feet and side during the crucifixion. The first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega, which mean "the beginning and the end", as well as the current year, are inscribed on the candle alongside an image of an Easter lamb. The Paschal Candle is the most important candle in the church and parish. It is lit every day during Mass throughout the Easter season and is used throughout the year for special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals. Duffy and Scott Candlemakers in Tullamore supply our Paschal Candles.



New Easter Oils



The Three Holy Oils for use in our parish arrived on Holy Thursday. They were blessed by Bishop Tom at the Chrism Mass on Spy Wednesday in Mullingar Cathedral.

Why do Christians give Easter Eggs ?

For many years people gave up eggs for Lent and they were collected up to be used during the days of Easter. People swapped eggs and gave them as gifts or reward for doing the Easter fast. Sometimes the story of Easter would be painted on the eggs. A chick hatching from an egg reflects Jesus rising from the dead and leaving the tomb. When the Lenten fast moved on to people giving up sweet things, chocolate eggs became the norm in many parts of the world. As you give an egg or eat one reflect on its significance to us as Christians.



Our Easter faith contains a commissioning: to spread the Good News —How will you be an apostle during the Easter season? Ten ideas ... 1. Do a Random Act of kindness 2. Challenge a negative atmosphere by being enthusiastic! 3. Make a donation to a religious charity like Trócaire or St. Vincent de Paul 4. Let go of a long standing grudge 5. Re-evaluate your work patterns. How can they be more just and life giving? 6. Volunteer to read at Mass 7. Put yourself in another's shoes. Work hard at overcoming a deeply-ingrained prejudice. 8. As you walk along the streets, keep your head up and give people eye-contact, smiles and hellos. 9. Lighten up! Place your biggest worry in God's hands. 10. Be an



Mark 16:15

'Easter presence' to a person who is feeling down.

Returning Your Parish Survey



Have you completed the Parish Survey? Your opinion matters to us. Ashbourne Parish has been carrying out a survey these past two weeks on issues relating to our parish. We are looking for parishioners to help us in the strengthening of our parish. We are grateful to all those who have already returned their Surveys. We are extending by one week the time period for return of the surveys so if you are interested please put pen to paper in the coming days. Completed Surveys should be returned to the Survey boxes at the back of Ashbourne or Donaghmore Churches. The Parish Survey will help our parish form a new mission statement and identify four tasks for the new Parish Pastoral Assembly to work on over the coming four years.

Divine Mercy Sunday

At Mass next Sunday in Ashbourne prayers before the Divine Mercy icon will be recited. Devotion to the Divine Mercy became popular in Poland after revelations received by St. Faustina. 'Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is love and mercy itself. Amen.'



Priest of Our Diocese Appointed Bishop



Our Bishop's Secretary and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Meath, Fr. Paul Connell was announced as the new bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois on Wednesday last. We congratulate him and thank him for his work in support of our parish and diocese.

Visit of the Charges d'Affaires of the Papal Nunciature

Next Sunday Monsignor Julien Kabore, Charges D'Affaires of the Vatican Nunciature will attend the 11am Mass in Ashbourne. A priest from Burkino Faso, Monsignor Julien knows Fr. Michael from when he came to Ireland to work in Mullingar Parish. Monsignor Julien was appointed to the embassy last year and works with the Nuncio in liaising between the Irish Church and the Vatican.



Please Bring Back Your Trócaire Boxes

Now that Lent is over we are collecting the Trócaire Boxes. Trócaire works in several countries in the developing world and there is a real danger, that with the media spotlight constantly on war in Europe, people in poor parts of Africa and Asia will suffer. Please return your Trócaire box to Mass next weekend and place in the collection basket in front of the altar. Thank you for your generosity to those in need of our help.



Today is an Offering Day for the Support of the Priests of our Parish. Both the envelope and basket collection go towards the payment of their salary. We thank you for your support and are grateful to all parishioners paying their Easter dues. We thank all those who support their parish. Palm Sunday's contribution totals were as follows: Plate €1535.00, Shrines €1070.00; Development Fund €855.00. Mile Buíochas. **Happy Easter!**

