



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

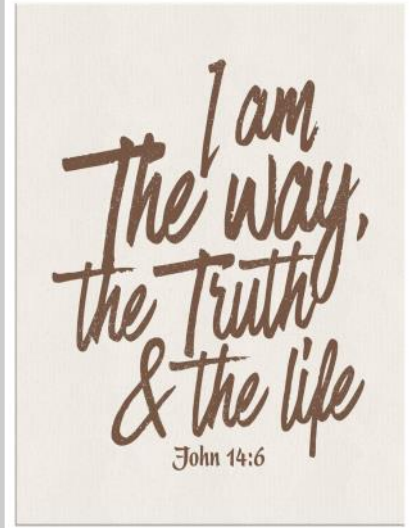
ashbourneparish.ie

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year A



Mass Intentions

Saturday 6th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Herbert Ronan, Painstown, (1st Ann) James & Maureen Moloney Jimmy Heneghan, Carmel Cawley,
Sunday 7th Donaghmore	9am 10am	Kay Mintern Fr. Tom Rafferty
Hospitality in the Parish Centre Afterwards	11am	Mary Farrell, Milltown Estate (Months Mind)
	12.30pm	Joseph, Emma & Colette Flannery
Monday 8th	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 9th	10am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 10th	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 11th	10am	Eilish Howlett
Friday 12th	10am	William & Eileen Fitzsimon
Saturday 13th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	10am 11.30am 2pm 3.30pm 7pm	St. Mary's Group 1 St. Mary's Group 2 Gaelscoil na Cille Sacramental Programme Group 2 Michelle Donnelly, Tara Close (1st Anniversary) & dad Hugh Bartley, Ann Marie & Tommy Scully, Austin & Charlotte McGuire, Margaret & Michael Whelan, Kay Mintern
Sunday 14th	9am	Rose Griffiths
Donaghmore	10am	Joseph Morris
	11am	For the Children Receiving Holy Communion
	12.30m	John Fanning, Castle Crescent, (1st Anniversary)

Congratulations to Our New Communicants

Congratulations to the girls and boys who celebrate their First Holy Communion this weekend. We are delighted to welcome the children and their families to our Sunday Mass. A Prayer Card for the children is available after all Masses today.



2nd Weekend of First Holy Communion

Next Saturday another four First Holy Communion ceremonies will take place. These Masses are for the children prepared through St. Mary's School, Gaelscoil na Cille and the After School Parish Programme (Group 2). 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.



Why go to Mass? - 10 good Reasons

As Holy Communion is celebrated it is important that we know why we go to Mass.

1. *Jesus invites me: 'Do this in memory of me.'*
2. *The priest and community need the support of my presence.*
3. *My faith needs the support of a believing community.*
4. *The Gospel can challenge me.*
5. *The Bread of Life can nourish and strengthen me.*
6. *Weekly Mass anchors my week and my life.*
7. *God has blessed me, so I give thanks.*
8. *I have needs, so I ask for God's help.*
9. *Worship combats spiritual laziness.*
10. *Worship gives depth, direction and meaning to life.*

Which of these do you agree with? During Easter we share our faith and encourage others to do likewise.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm / Confessions on Saturday 5 to 6pm / Bethany Bereavement Support (087) 2715222 / No Baptisms or Confessions on Saturday next due to 1st Holy Communion Masses



Christ's Body and Blood is our spiritual food on our journey to heaven. And thanks be to God for this great blessing.

Diocesan Retreat



The annual retreat for the priests of the diocese of Meath takes place in the coming days. You are asked to pray for Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán at this time for renewal and reflection in their priestly ministry.

Cemetery Devotions

The annual prayers for the faithful departed interred in the cemeteries of Ashbourne and Donaghmore takes place



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 7.45pm. Killeglad graves will be blessed at 8.30pm that same evening. The graves in Donaghmore and Greenogue will be blessed following the Sunday morning 10am Mass of the Bank Holiday weekend, June 4th with Greenogue devotions taking place at 11.15am. On the following Saturday evening of June 10th the 7pm Vigil Mass will be offered for those interred in St. Declan's with the blessing of the graves afterwards at 8.30pm.

Cemeteries are special places for bereaved families and for Christians they are held as sacred grounds, as they hold the earthly remains of our brothers and sisters in Christ, awaiting the resurrection.

Parishioners are encouraged in preparation for cemetery devotions to check their grave and to make sure it looks well for this parish occasion when we meet to pray for our loved ones and express our love for them.

Parishioners are asked to remove all leftover material and waste from the cemetery and dispose of them in a responsible way.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies.

After School Sacramental Classes 2023- 2024



Registration for the parish after school classes next September continues during this month. Registration forms with details of the classes next year 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.

Accord is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage.

Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact mariagepreparation@accord.ie or call 046 9023146. The Meath office of Accord is based in St. Anne's Community Resource Centre, Navan.



Does St Dympna Mean Anything to You? Bring Her to Life ...



Two pilgrimages from our parish to learn a little about the life of St. Dymphna have been organised. A bus with our priests will leave the grounds of Ashbourne Church at 12 noon on Monday week, May 15th, to travel to the National Gallery to learn about her life and view the Belgian altarpiece on loan to the museum. Up to thirty parishioners are allowed access to this 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* (Dympna'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. The stained glass window in Ashbourne Church (shown above) depicts St. Dymphna in red and white clothing and holding a book of the gospels and a palm branch. Do take a look at the window in the old part of our church as we prepare for her feast on Monday week.

Crowning Mary

The custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed



Virgin began at the end of the thirteenth century. May devotions became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order during the eighteenth century. Creating a May altar at home, using spring flowers, is a popular

custom in many parts of the world. A crown was placed on the statue of Mary on Monday morning last in Ashbourne Church as part of honouring Mary's role in our salvation history. When in the church do go up close to the statue and pray to Mary, Queen of Heaven.

May Rosary

Rosary is recited in our parish every morning before and after the 10am daily mass. For the month of May the Legion of Mary will hold a public rosary at Brindley Park on Wednesday next 7.30pm. All are welcome.



Pioneer Meeting

Are you a Pioneer? The local temperance group will meet on Wednesday morning in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. All are welcome.



Last Sunday's Collection Totals: Plate €1300.00; Vocations Collection €1390.00; Shrine Amount €1030.00; Development Fund €890.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who generously give to

our parish and the building of our Lord's kingdom.



We pray for Dermot Browne, Hunt's Grove whose funeral took place on Friday.