

# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER



**Priests of the Parish**  
**Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.**  
**Fr. Stephen Kennedy, IVE/ C.C.**  
**Fr. Brendan O'Rourke, IVE/ C.C.**

**Parish Secretary - Mary Mullen**  
 Parish Office Monday-Thursday  
 9am-12.30pm - phone 01-8353149  
 ashbourneparish.ie

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*Confessions every Saturday 5-6pm*

## 1st Sunday Advent B



**First Sunday in Advent**

**What I say to say to you and  
 say to all: 'Stay Awake'.  
 (Mark 13:37)**

### Mass Intentions

Saturday 2nd <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Grainne Redmond; Kathleen Johnson; Geoffrey & Vera Smith; Trudy, Hugh, JJ & Amy Gallagher; John & Fionnuala O'Driscoll; Christina & Hugh McAree; Fr. Bill Kregelberg; Ned & Deceased Nulty Family; Patrick & Deceased O'Sullivan Family; Marie O'Connor; Michael, Julia & Mary Andrews; Bob & Rose McLoughlin; Maureen & Bill Enright; Alice, Christopher, Noel, Christy and Chrissie Quirke; John, Emmett, Spike & Eileen Emmett; Pat & Sheila Kearns, Maureen Jones, Sarah Moore; Peggy Hollywood
Sunday 3rd	9am	McLoughlin and Tierney Families
Donaghmore	10am	Marcella and Joseph Morris
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	John and Nancy Kinsella and their grandson Joey (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Maura Hourihan, Racehill Manor (Month's Mind)
Monday 4th	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 5th	10am	Jaqueline Sheehy
Wednesday 6th	10am	Joe and Kathleen Armstrong
Thursday 7th	10am	John Walsh
Friday 8th	10am	Theresa Flatterty
Saturday 9th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Eddie Fennelly, Rath Lodge (Month's Mind) Julia, Mary and Paddy Brady; Mary Murphy; Margaret and Michael Daly; Victor Bolster; Linda Moloney; Michael Gaynor, Patrick, Adam Hopkins + Deceased Hopkins + Taite
Sunday 10th	9am	Paul Kelly
Donaghmore	10am	Mary Theresa Clarke & Sons & Husband
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Kathrina Hurley, Alderbrook Glen (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Kathleen Tubbritt, Rath Lodge (1st Anniversary)

### Let's Celebrate Advent 2023

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin *adventus*, meaning the coming of Jesus both at his birth here on earth and in His second coming. On this fourth Sunday before Christmas we light the first of four candles on the rim of our Advent wreath. This lighting signifies the countdown of time to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation: God became human and calls us into His eternal light.

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord God, your church joyfully awaits the coming of its Saviour, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of our Advent wreath; may their light reflect the splendour of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

### We Light the Candle of Hope

The first purple candle lit today on our wreath represents Hope and the word Hope is placed on our Advent Tree. Jesus is our hope. Our hope in Jesus helps us face our fears. Jesus redeems us and assures us He will come again. Because of Jesus we always have Hope. Think of what hope means to you this first week of Advent.



### Commissioning of the New Pastoral Assembly

After the homily at the 11am Mass today Fr. Michael will welcome those making a commitment to pastoral matters in our parish. Charles Bobbett will be the first Chairperson of the PPA with this position rotating among members every six months. Sinead Carroll will be the first secretary of the group and each secretary will have a one year term. The assembly will work on the four pastoral areas prioritised from the parish survey. We wish all members of the Parish Pastoral Assembly all the best in their work and ministry over the four years.



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes place on Friday next. The 8th of December is a Holy Day of Obligation and is the feast day of Ashbourne Church.



### Masses on Friday at 10am and 7pm

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

## Blessing of Ashbourne Church Crib



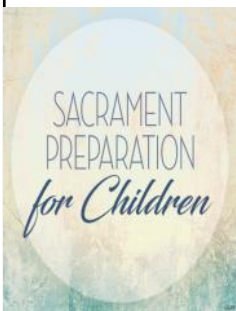
As part of the Vigil Mass of Saturday next, December 9th, the crib figures for this year's crèche will be blessed. After Mass the outdoor lights in the Church grounds will be turned on. Thank you to all those who are helping to clean and decorate our churches for the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. We rely on volunteers and are most grateful to those who help prepare our churches in Ashbourne and Donaghmore.

## St. Nicholas and Greenogue

The feast of St. Nicholas is on Wednesday and has been celebrated by Christians on this date since the fifth century. St. Nicholas was a bishop in Turkey who was kind to poor people and helped them give gifts to children at Christmas. He dropped bags of money down the chimneys of people in need and is the patron saint of children. The old church in Greenogue is called after this great man.



## Preparing Our Children for the Sacraments



On Tuesday morning at 10.45am the monthly catechism class in the church for first communion children takes place. On Wednesday morning at the same time our priests will meet the confirmation children. We ask all parents to be attentive to ensuring that they and their families are coming to Mass on a Sunday and committed to prayer together in their home and parish church.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thank you to all those who have committed in recent weeks to join in a period of Adoration on a Thursday in our Church. Adoration takes place after Thursday from 10.30am to 8pm. During November the Meath Diocesan Adoration Committee encouraged parishes to renew Adoration and invited priests and parishioners from the 69 parishes of the diocese to pledge an hour to Adoration in Mullingar for last weekend's feast of Christ the King. Thank you to all the parishioners who joined our priests in the Cathedral on Saturday morning last.



## Booking of Anniversary Mass Intentions



Parishioners can now book Masses for 2024 with Mary our parish secretary. Please be conscious if looking for a Sunday Mass that all 11am Sunday Masses and the 2nd and 4th Mass each month is reserved for those requesting a Month's Memory or 1st Anniversary Mass for a loved one. We have usually 45 to 50 deaths a year in our parish and we reserve these Masses for family members arranging these Masses. Our Shared Mass in Ashbourne is the 7pm Saturday vigil Mass. In Donaghmore a shared Mass takes place on the last Sunday of the month. Once a week and on certain days at Christmas and Easter Mass is offered for the people and faith of the parish.

## Society of St Vincent De Paul in Ashbourne

The St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Appeal is taking place at this time. Envelopes have been sent out to homes and the parish is happy once again to facilitate the taking up of these envelopes. Anyone wishing to donate to St. Vincent de Paul can leave a contribution in the Safe Deposit Box, near the old confession box at the back of Ashbourne Church. Our parish refers people in need to St. Vincent de Paul who act in the name of the parish in helping those needing assistance. Thank you to all those who support the work of the society and thank you to all the active members in our local SVP branch.



## Parish Meetings

A parish finance committee meeting will take place on Tuesday evening next, December 5th, at 6pm. The meeting will look at the substantial works undertaken over the last year, the current parish financial situation and discuss projected expenditure and parish projects in 2024. We thank all the members of the finance committee for the work they do and guidance they give. Thank you also to all those who attended the various meetings for Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers and Sacristans/Stewards in recent days. In the coming weeks we will work on implementing the decisions made. Thank you to each parishioner who volunteers as a minister in our parish.



Finance Committee

## Supporting Our Priests and Ongoing Maintenance Works in Our Parish



The collection amounts for last week were as follows: Offertory Plate €1,900; Shrines €1,160; Envelope/Development Fund €935. Gratitude is expressed to all those who contribute, collect and count monies given to our parish. *Mile buíochas.*

## Praying for the Faithful Departed

We pray for John Cavanagh, Killeland Park whose funeral service took place in Dardistown Crematorium on Friday morning. We pray for his soul and all the souls of all the faithful departed.

