

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

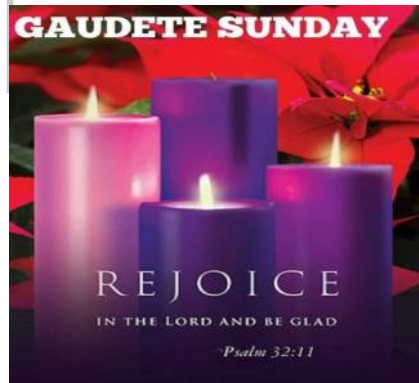
Parish Office Monday-Thursday

9am-12.30pm - phone 01-8353149

ashbourneparish.ie

ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

3rd Sunday Advent B



John said. 'I am as Isaiah prophesied: A voice that cries in the wilderness; make a straight way for the Lord.' (John 1:8)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 16th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Margaret Burke Daniels, Cherryfields (Month's Mind); Emma Connor, Crestwood Road, (Month's Mind); Darren Ellis, Crestwood Avenue (1st Anniversary); Ron Tier; Paddy Stritch; Sean and Elizabeth Clusker; Seamus Donnelly; Derek Tysom; Daniel, Kathleen and Donal Keenan; Margaret and Michael Hogan; Theresa and John Farrell
Sunday 17th	9am	Kathleen and Jimmy Lee
Donaghmore	10am	Bernadette Ralph
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Chris Beary, Archerstown Wood, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Charlie Fitzsimons
Monday 18th	10am	Susan Cleary
Tuesday 19th	10am	Siobhan and Danny O'Connell
Wednesday 20th	10am	Ciarán Benville
Thursday 21st	10am	Andrea Fleming
Friday 22nd	10am	Christopher Cassidy
Saturday 23rd <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Mary Rochford, Cluain Rí, (1st Anniversary); Caroline Lacey; Walter Murphy; James Molloy; Mark Ward; Joe, Mary and Sharon Carthy; Pauline and Michael Larkin
Sunday 24th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish

Celebrate 'Gaudete Sunday'



On this Third Sunday of Advent the pink candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and the third word placed on the Advent tree. The pink candle represents 'Joy' and asks us to prepare a path for the Lord with joyfulness and rejoicing. For people of faith - no matter what circumstances we are in - Christmas is an uplifting occasion because of who Jesus is. This week think of the joy you carry because you believe.

Do This In Memory Mass No.2 on the Word of God

This Sunday we welcome the children and families who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion next May. For today's Mass the boys and girls have been learning about the Bible and the importance of hearing God's Word. Parents are talking to their children about their favourite bible stories and are encouraged to bring the bible alive by having a children's bible at home. The art for this Mass had the boys and girls colouring in a picture of an open bible and drawing stories on each page from Jesus' life.



'Bambinelli' Sunday

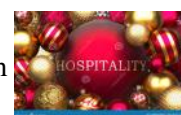


Today, following an Italian tradition, children bring their figure of baby Jesus from their crib to Mass and the priest blesses the figure before it is put in the crib at Christmas.

Any boys and girls who have brought their figurine to Mass today should show it to one of our priests for blessing after Mass and he will be very happy to bless it.

Hospitality in the Parish Centre

All are welcome after the 11am Mass to a cup of tea and chat.



Altar Server's Meeting at Christmas There will be a short meeting for Mass Server's on Wednesday evening at 6.30pm in Ashbourne Church. We will look at how the ministry is going and decide on the Christmas Eve and Day Mass rota.

Our Parish Cribs are in Place

The cribs in Ashbourne and Donaghmore Churches are now in place. Hopefully many people will visit them in the weeks ahead. In 1223 St Francis made the first crib in a cave in southern Italy and ever since followers of Jesus have put cribs up in churches and homes to help reflect the true meaning of Christ's birth. As part of Christmas Mass baby Jesus will be laid in the manger and the cribs will be blessed. As we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the crib you are especially invited to reflect on its history and how it brings the message of the Christ –child to us.



Birthday Card for Baby Jesus

Children are invited to make Birthday Cards to bring to Mass on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day. Junior, Senior, First & Second classes in our schools are partaking in the event, but all children can take part. The cards will be left next to the manger in our churches. Parents might take the opportunity to explain to their child that there would be a massive 2,023 candles on Jesus' Birthday cake!!



Completing the Decorating of Ashbourne Church

Volunteers are sought on Wednesday to help with the final cleaning and decorating of our Church before the celebration of the Nativity. If you have some time to spare do come along at 10.30am. Our parish is grateful to all those who help us clean and decorate our parish buildings.



Confessions for Christmas

The priests of the parish and visiting priests will administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7-8pm on Tuesday next in Ashbourne Church. It is always beneficial to go to confession for Christmas and to receive the grace of the sacrament. You are welcome to receive the sacrament at any time during this special hour. Confessions will also be available from the priests of our parish on Saturday next from 3.30pm to 6pm. Be you a regular to the sacrament or you have not received it in several years you will be most welcome.



Christmas Communion Calls

The priests of our parish will make their Christmas visit to the sick and housebound on Wednesday. If anyone is unable to get to mass this Christmas and would like a priest to bring them the Blessed Sacrament or administer the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Parish Office by closing time on Tuesday morning.



Holy Hour as Advent Concludes

A Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer, reflection, silence and Benediction will take place from 7-8pm on Thursday evening next, the shortest day of the year. All are welcome to come to pray for our parish and each other as we keep Christ in Christmas and prepare to welcome Baby Jesus.



Join Us This Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass Times
Ashbourne Church 5pm and 7pm
Donaghmore Church 7pm



Christmas Day Mass Times
Ashbourne Church 9am, 11am & 12.30pm
Donaghmore Church 10am

As the fourth and final Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve and we have three Masses that evening there will be no 12.30pm Mass on Sunday next- December 24th. Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday is at 7pm next Saturday evening and Masses for the fourth Sunday itself will be at 9am and 11am in Ashbourne Church. Donaghmore Mass on Sunday morning next for the fourth Sunday of Advent is at 10am.

Parish Fundraising for Local Charities



The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is coming to an end at this time. Envelopes have been sent to homes in Ashbourne and the parish has facilitated the taking up of these envelopes. You can also donate towards Ashbourne Charity Vouchers at the cash desk of SuperValu. Over the last decade many vouchers has been given to charities in Ashbourne to support those in need including SVP and the activities and outreach of Ashbourne Senior Citizens.

Supporting Your Parish and Three Priests

The collection amounts for last week were as follows: Offertory Plate €1770; Shrines €1200; Envelope/Development Fund €785; Holy Day €320. Gratitude is expressed to all those who contribute, collect and count monies given to our parish. *Mile buíochas*. Christmas Day is an offering day for the support of a priest in a parish. Those who have an envelope box should use the designated white envelope. For those who have not got their own parish envelope special Christmas envelopes have been left in each of our churches. People unable to get to mass over Christmas can return their contribution to either the Safe Deposit at the back of Ashbourne Church or by dropping it in to the Parish Office. Gratitude is expressed to all those making a supportive offering to our parish priests at this time.



Death of Fr. Ciarán's Mother and Two Parishioners

On Wednesday morning Fr. Ciaran's mother, Margaret Clarke, passed from this world. Her funeral was celebrated in Dysart Parish yesterday. We convey our deepest sympathy to Fr. Ciarán and pray for his strength and the repose of his mother. We pray also at this time for two parishioners committed to their faith community, Thomas Toner from Fleenstown and Mary Kavanagh of The Ward, who died also during the week. Both of their funerals took place in Donaghmore Church and they were interred in Greenogue and Donaghmore Cemeteries. May they rest in eternal peace.

