



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin, P.P.

Fr. Stephen Kennedy, C.C., IVE

Fr. Brendan O'Rourke, C.C., IVE

Parish Secretary - Mary Mullen

Parish Office - Public Opening Times

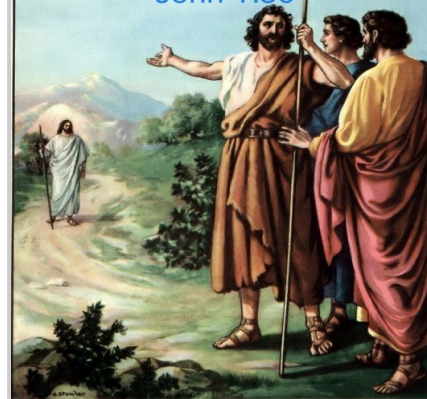
Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

2nd Sunday B

"Behold, the Lamb of God."
John 1:36



In today's gospel John the Baptist gives Jesus the title of the 'Lamb of God'.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 13th	10am	Tom Daly; William & Ann Henry & deceased family members; Bridget & John Garvey & deceased Boylan & Garvey family; John Harty; Paul Donnelly and son Paul
Sunday 14th	9am	Christopher Tormey
Donaghmore	10am	Marie O'Donnell
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Aubrey Weir, Baltrasna (1st Anniversary) and Archie Docherty
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 15th	10am	Eilish Stokes
Tuesday 16th	10am	John Byrne
Wednesday 17th	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 18th	10am	Chris McLoughlin
Friday 19th	10am	Andrea Fleming-Cullen
Saturday 20th	10am	Tess & Charlie Murphy; Anne Grimes; Anne and Steve Keane.
Sunday 21st	9am	Ann Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Christo Kavanagh
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Mattie Gorman

Coeliac or Gluten Free Hosts

Parishioners are reminded that a gluten free host is available from the priest or Eucharistic Minister at communion time. If you are gluten intolerant please indicate that you wish to receive this host when you come forward for communion. The pyx with these hosts is contained within the large ciboria to emphasise the oneness of all God's people around the Eucharist.



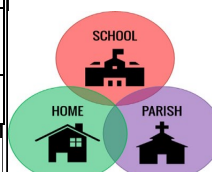
Enrolment in our Three Catholic Primary Schools

Enrolment for the three parish primary schools - St. Declan's N.S., St. Mary's N.S. and Gaelscoil na Cille is currently underway. Admission Policies are on each individual school website. Parents of children who wish to apply for admission to Junior Infants in one of these schools this September should read the admission notices carefully as they include important information about how an application is made. Closing date is January 22.

Celebrating the Sacraments 2024

Confirmation: The parish and candidates are getting ready for the two ceremonies to be led by Bishop Tom on Saturday 23 March at 12 noon and 3pm. **1st Holy Communion Weekends:**

On Saturday the 18th & 25th of May children will receive Holy communion with their families as guests of honour at the Sunday Mass the next day. **1st Confession:** From 4 to 6pm on Saturdays of Lent parents bring their children to the sacrament. In Ashbourne parish confession is received for the first time a year before Holy Eucharist.



All sacraments for children or minors must be requested by a parent or next of kin taking responsibility for the handing on of faith. If you are a parent who wish to prepare your child for baptism, confession, communion or confirmation you are reminded that your child must be registered with the Parish Office. Just because a child is in a certain class in a school presumption of a sacrament is never made without parental consent and commitment to the Christian faith.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Thursday- 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm



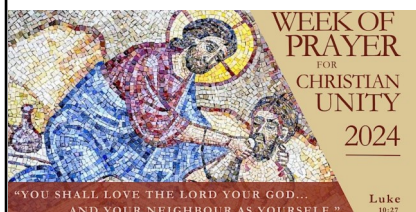
Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

Catholic Schools Week 2024 will be celebrated in schools and parishes across Ireland from next Sunday. This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Service'. During Catholic Schools Week families, parishes and schools are invited to participate in a week of celebration and reflection on the work and ethos of Catholic Schools. Our three parish schools will celebrate their identity during these days. We wish the schools all the best in their preparation for this year's events and thank all involved for their work of service to our faith and local community.

Do This In Memory Mass No. 3

Next weekend we have the third of six 'Do This In Memory' preparatory masses for families preparing for 1st Holy Communion. This month the children are learning about the Offertory part of Mass. They are going through the prayers called 'Blessed be God' and the 'Sanctus' or 'Holy, holy..'. The children are also learning about giving gifts to God the 'Great Giver'. Parent's are asked to talk to their children about the making of bread and wine and how Jesus used them at the Last Supper. The children's art for this Mass has them colouring in a picture and doing a puzzle on the Offertory Gifts.



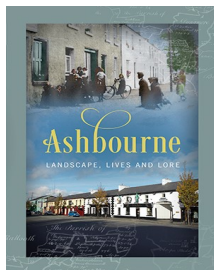
Christian Unity Week Begins on Thursday

Each year during this month Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation between Christians of all

denominations. In the past in our country there was much emphasis on difference rather than on similarities. Regrettably Christians often did not share and celebrate their common vision. We have all heard stories of how bad these divisions were. Today thankfully Catholics, Church of Ireland members, Methodists, Presbyterians and evangelists of various Christian denominations emphasize the person of Christ at the heart of their lives. On Thursday next Christians begin a week of prayer for greater solidarity among all the baptised. Next Sunday as part of this week of expressing our solidarity with Christians we celebrate 'Word of God Sunday'. On the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Thursday January 25 we will offer the Mass rite for Christian Unity. 'You are all one in Christ' Galatians 3:8

The Ashbourne Story

Ashbourne Historical Society are delighted to announce that the Arts Office in Meath County Council have decided to extend their exhibition 'The Ashbourne Story' in the Toradh Gallery (Ashbourne library) until 31st of January. Our parish faith history is well documented in this exhibition and is well worth checking out.



Parish Pastoral Assembly

The Parish Pastoral Assembly had its first meeting on Tuesday evening last. Members are getting to know one another and are beginning their work of looking at the four pastoral needs that they are tasked with over the coming years. Charles Bobbett is the Chairperson for the first six months and Sinead Carroll is the secretary to the assembly for the first year. A different member of the group leads prayer at each gathering. The meeting follows the model of 'See, Judge and Act' in terms of discerning the promptings of the Holy Spirit and building consensus among members. This initial meeting began looking at ways we can improve the parish website and promoting parish masses and a living faith.

2024 Month's Memory and 1st Anniversary Masses

Our parish has one intention on our weekday and Sunday morning Masses. Our shared Mass for deceased loved ones with an anniversary occurring is on a Saturday evening at 7pm at which a candle is lit for each intention of the families gathered. The 11am Mass and two of the 12.30pm Masses each month are reserved for families booking a Month's Memory or First Anniversary Mass for their loved one. We kindly remind parishioners to understand that our secretary, Mary, tries her best to facilitate the wishes of families but a person's first choice is not always available. Parishioners are encouraged to book all Anniversary Masses through the Parish Office at an early opportunity, to be flexible in terms of dates (particularly on a Sunday) and families should liaise to avoid the same intention occurring twice in the Parish Diary. The stipend for the Mass being offered should be paid to Mary at the time of booking through the Parish Office. The priest who says the Mass receives this donation. Be assured if any person wishes to have a Mass said and cannot afford a stipend, the priests of our parish are happy to oblige.



FINANCE

Thank You for Your Generosity

The priests of the parish are most grateful to all those who gave to their parish over these Christmas weeks. The Christmas Offertory Collection make up a large part of the monthly salary paid to the priests of the parish. If you have not got around to toward giving to the parish yet it is not too late. Please drop your offering in to the Parish Office or the safe deposit box at the back of Ashbourne Church. Last Sunday's Collection Totals Plate €1335.00; Shrines €600.00; Development Fund €690.00.

Second Collection at Mass next Sunday

After Holy Communion next Sunday there will be a second collection for our parish contribution towards the Diocesan Cess. The money collected across parishes in the Diocese of Meath will support the work of our church welfare agencies including Accord Catholic Marriage Care, the National Child Safeguarding Board, and the Council for Immigrant and Emigrant Support. This is one of six second collections that take place annually in our parish. We thank parishioners for their support and the stewards and counters who help with the various collections in our churches. Your help is greatly appreciated.

