



# 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

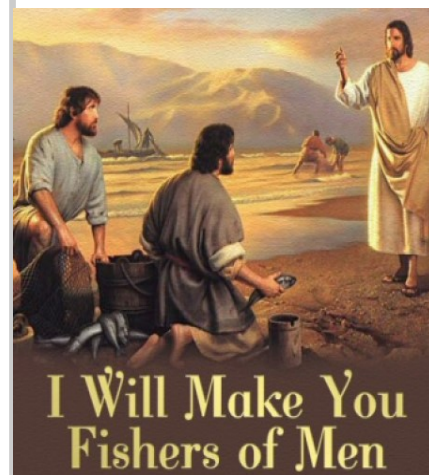
Parish Office - Public Opening Times

Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm

Website: [ashbourneparish.ie](http://ashbourneparish.ie)

Email: [ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com](mailto:ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com)

3rd Sunday B



*In today's gospel Jesus calls his first followers.*

Mark 1:14-20

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th	7pm	Tess & Charlie Murphy; Anne Grimes; Anne and Steve Keane; Breda Lonergan
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, Milltown Estate, (1st Anniversary)
Monday 22nd	10am	Patrick, Ann & John Joyce
Tuesday 23rd	10am	Angie & Paddy Foy
Wednesday 24th	10am	Jim & Maureen Mullen
Thursday 25th <b>Mass of the Rite for Christian Unity</b>	10am	Deceased of the Buggie & Bailey Families
Friday 26th	10am	Tenie Whelan
Saturday 27th	7pm	Máiread Loughrane; Kathleen & Jimmy Lee; Paul Kelly; Jenny, Jack, John & Jimmy Morgan; Christine Foran; Phyllis Woods; Una O'Brien; Alice Carruth.
Sunday 28th	9am	Tom Harris
Donaghmore	10am	Mary Kavanagh, The Ward, (Month's Mind)
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Marita Ryan, Bourne Avenue, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Elizabeth Costello, Crestwood (1st Anniversary)

## DO THIS IN MEMORY



This 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 at 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'. Parents 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. On Saturday the 18th & 25th of May children will receive Holy Communion in our parish with their families as guests of honour at the Sunday Mass the next day.

## Conclusion of Enrolment

Enrolment for the three parish primary schools - St. Declan's N.S., St. Mary's N.S. and Gaelscoil na Cille ends tomorrow. Admission Policies are on each individual school website. Parents of children applying 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 and processed.



## Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Bishop Smith

On Sunday next, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Priests and Religious of Meath Diocese will gather with Bishop Deenihan for sung Vespers in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar at 4pm. This is a annual gathering to celebrate the contribution of religious sisters, brothers and priests to our diocese. This year, the celebration will also mark the fortieth anniversary of Bishop Smith's Ordination as Bishop of Meath. That is a significant milestone and we wish Bishop Michael many more years of health and happiness. All parishioners from Ashbourne and across the diocese are welcome to attend this celebration in the Cathedral.



We pray for those listed above and for the repose of Maura Duffy, Monaghan whose two daughters Aileen and Pauline live in our parish. May they inherit life in the Promised Land of Heaven.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Sunday, 21 January–Saturday, 27 January



## Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Serving Our Communities

Catholic Schools Week begins today. 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. On Tuesday morning there is a Pilgrim Walk for all the students in fifth class in our three Catholic Primary Schools. On Wednesday morning the sixth class children will attend the 10am daily mass at which prayers will be offered for our three school communities. Grandparent's Day is also being organised in our schools as we celebrate the role of grandparent's in passing on faith and radiating God's love. We wish the schools all the best with this year's events and thank all involved for their work of service to our faith and local community.

### Visitation of Diocesan Catechists to Ashbourne



Each year a team of Primary School Catechists visit our catholic primary schools to support and encourage teachers in transmitting the Primary School Catechetics Programme. A team will be visiting the Catholic Schools in Ashbourne parish on Monday and Tuesday of this week. In early February they will visit the After School Sacramental Programme. We

thank all the teachers in our parish schools for the work that they do in supporting our parents and priests.

### Christian Unity Mass on Thursday

On Thursday last Christians began a week of prayer for greater solidarity among all the baptised. This happens each January as Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation between Christians of all denominations. 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 next we will offer the 10am Mass rite for Christian Unity. 'You are all one in Christ' Galatians 3:8.

WEEK of  
**PRAYER**  
for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
2024

### Word of God Sunday 2024

Pope Francis asks that all parishes promote the 'Word of God'. Each Sunday as Catholics at Mass we hear the Bible being read. It is important that we let the words of God touch our hearts and minds. The living word can inspire, inform and ignite the Spirit within us. In the words of St. Jerome 'Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ'. As you come to mass appreciate the person reading the Word and let the word resonate within. Read the front page of the newsletter and perhaps take it home so that you can reflect on the meaning of the readings.

God's people did NOT  
create God's Word.

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."



John 8:47 - "Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God.  
The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

God's Word does  
create God's people.

John MacArthur

### Organising First Confession

In the coming days Fr. Michael will invite parents to enrol their child for first confession. On three Saturday afternoons of Lent parents will have the opportunity to bring their children to the sacrament. In Ashbourne parish confession is received for the first time a year before Holy Eucharist.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID  
OF CONFESSION!"  
- POPE FRANCIS



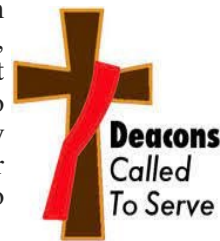
### Confirming Our Children—Mass Number 3



The third of the four preparatory masses for confirmation takes place in Ashbourne Church next weekend. The sacrament will be conferred by Bishop Tom on Saturday March 23. As part of the rite the children will receive a saint's name that they themselves have chosen. For Masses next Sunday the children will have completed a project on their chosen saint and they will bring to Mass their saint's card that will be used in the confirmation ceremony.

### Ordination of a Deacon in Our Diocese

This Sunday evening Bishop Tom will ordain Anthony Kerr to the Diaconate in Saint Mary's Church in Drogheda at 7pm. A native of Navan, Anthony is currently on Pastoral Placement in Drogheda. Anthony will be ordained to the Priesthood next year. Do keep Anthony in your prayers at this time and pray too for those who are discerning a call to priesthood and religious life.



### Financial Matters in Our Parish



The envelope boxes that support the Parish Development Fund will be ready on Monday week. The new envelope year begins on the first Sunday of February. We ask parishioners to call in to the Parish Office to collect their box and where possible to help with their distribution in their local area.

The first 2024 meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on Tuesday evening January 23 at 6pm in the Parish Centre. Preparations are currently being made for release of the Parish Financial and Development Report for 2023-2024 on the first weekend of February.

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.

Last Sunday's Collection Totals Plate €1360.00; Shrines €905.00; Development Fund €1445.00.

The priests of the parish are most grateful to all those who give to their 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.

