

# 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



## 4th Sunday Advent B

**'Rejoice so highly  
favoured! The Lord is  
with you.'** Luke 1:27



**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

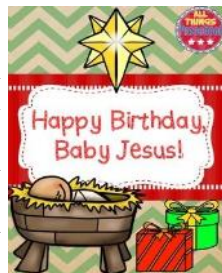
**Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace  
and Love**

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Masses begin this evening at 5pm and continue until the last mass at 12.30pm on Christmas Day. Our full schedule is Ashbourne 5pm, 7pm and 7pm Donaghmore. On Monday Christmas Masses in Ashbourne are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm. Donaghmore has Mass Christmas morning at 10am. We encourage parishioners to attend Mass for Christmas and to reflect on the great mystery of the Christ child. Children are encouraged to bring birthday cards for baby Jesus. Everyone is encouraged to sing the carols and put their heart and mind into celebrating the great mystery of the Incarnation.

There will be mass and a priest on duty every day in our parish over the coming days of Christmas. The celebration of daily Eucharist will be as usual at 10am starting with mass on St. Stephen's morning at 10am. Mass on Wednesday the 27th is offered on the feast of St. John the Apostle for Jack and Kathleen Moore. On Thursday December 28th we recall the massacre of the Holy Innocents and mass in our parish is for Vinny Beggy. Friday 29th is the feast of St. Thomas Beckett and the 10am Mass is for Terry O'Brien. On Saturday evening December 30th Mass at 7pm is a Shared mass offered for the repose of the following souls Noel Rock; Kathleen & William, Maureen and James Maloney, Jim, Mary and Tom Stenson, Jane Kellegher, Patrick Simpson, Joe Cunnane. Masses in Ashbourne and Donaghmore next Sunday are at the normal times of 9am, 10am (D), 11am and 12.30pm. They are offered for the People of the Parish as the curtain falls on 2023.



“During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace, the gladness of the season which is hope and the heart of the season which is love. Somehow, not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing returns to you glad.”  
*John Whittier*

Today is the final Sunday of Advent. A purple candle which symbolises peace is lit on the Advent wreath. Tomorrow, Christmas Day, the centre candle on the wreath will be lit. This represents love. As you look on the Advent wreath pray that you as a follower of Jesus will strive to live a life full of hope, faith, joy, peace and love.



We extend a warm welcome to all who join us for Christmas. We especially welcome all who are home in Ashbourne for Christmas. We hope that you enjoy your visit and we wish you, your families and everyone in the parish a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

This time of year can be a difficult time for some people. We are conscious especially of those among us who have lost a loved one since this time last year. Nobody's Christmas is perfect and everyone is reminded to look after their mental, spiritual and emotional health. We pray for those striving for peace and those in particular need at this time.



The 11pm RTÉ Mass on Christmas Eve is from the Netherlands. The Christmas morning mass is from Ballivor Church and is celebrated by our former curate Fr. Ciaran Clarke. Pope Francis' Christmas message and the annual 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing is broadcast at 11.45am on RTE. EWTN will broadcast midnight Mass from Bethlehem and the solemn Christmas papal Mass from Rome. All Ashbourne Christmas Masses are broadcast on our parish website at ashbourneparish.ie.

# Join Us This Christmas



## Christmas Eve Masses

Ashbourne  
5pm 7pm

Donaghmore  
7pm

## Christmas Day Masses

Ashbourne  
9am 11am 12.30pm

Donaghmore  
10am



### The Feast of the Holy Family

The feast of the Holy Family is celebrated next Sunday. On this feast we celebrate the fact that at a particular moment in time God identified with us by sending us His Son and that he lived in a family just like us. The family is the kernel of God's love and fabric of social cohesion. As we look at the crib in our churches and homes we thank God for the family that Jesus was born in to and the example of love that radiates from Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

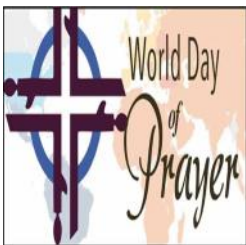
### Last Baptisms of the Year

The last baptisms of the year will take place on Saturday next. In total there were 95 baptisms in our parish in 2024. 49 of these were girls and 46 were boys. The first New Year Baptisms are scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 27th.



### New Year's Day Mass

Pope Francis encourages Catholics to pray on New Year's Day for peace. On Monday, January 1st, Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Ashbourne Church for this intention. Do try and get your New Year off to a good start by praying for peace in your heart and home.



### Parish Office is Closed for a Christmas Break

We wish Mary and all the volunteer staff who support our priests and staff in the parish Office a very Happy Christmas. We hope you enjoy a well earned break. The Parish Office reopens to you at 9am on Tuesday, January 2nd.



### 800 Years Since the First Crib

St Francis of Assisi set up the first crib in a cave in Greccio in December 1223. After a visit to Bethlehem in October he asked his parishioners to recreate the biblical scene in a cave resembling what he had just seen. It featured hundreds of candles, live animals and a real baby! As you visit the crib this year thank St. Francis for gifting us with this wonderful furnishing for our churches.



### Annual Parish Carol Service

Please note that you have not missed our Annual Parish Carol Service. This year in Ashbourne it is taking place on the twelfth day of Christmas which is Saturday evening January 6th. It is at 8pm after the Vigil Mass for the Feast. As we mark 'little Christmas' and the arrival of the Magi on the Feast of the Epiphany we will gift Baby Jesus with an hour of celebratory carols in his honour.



### Christmas Offerings 2023



Christmas is the principal offering day for the support of the priests of the parish. Thanks is expressed to all those who are financially supporting their parish at this time. Those who have an envelope box should use the designated white envelope marked 'Christmas Offerings'. For those who have not got their own parish envelope number special Christmas envelopes are left in each of our churches. We thank all those who contribute to our parish finances.

*We wish you and all our parishioners in the faith communities of Ashbourne and Donaghmore a very Happy Twelve Days of Christmas. Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.*

