



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

4th Sunday B



'And his teaching made a deep impression on them because he taught them with authority'.

(Mark 1:22)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 27th	7pm	Máiread Loughnane; 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 Avenue (1st Anniversary)
Monday 29th	10am	Denis McElligott
Tuesday 30th	10am	Maud, Bertie & Christy Mc Dermott
Wednesday 31st	10am	Angela Farrell
Thursday 1st	10am	Ethel & Joe Brown
Friday 2nd	10am	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday 3rd	7pm	Donal O'Loingsigh; Thomas Kelly, Sean Battersby; Margaret Sutton; PJ Walsh.
Sunday 4th	9am	Pat Sheehy
Donaghmore	10am	Richard White
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Paul Grimes, Baltrasna, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Finbar Daly



Confirming Our Children—Mass Number 3

The third of the four preparatory masses for the sacrament of confirmation takes place in Ashbourne Church this weekend. As part of the confirmation rite with Bishop Tom the children take on a saint's name. This is a name that the children have themselves chosen. For Masses this Sunday the children have completed a project on their chosen saint's name. To link in with the work of the children and raise awareness of the call for all of us to be saint's we have a 'Litany of the Saints' and Blessing of the 'Confirmandi' after communion. Each child is asked to bring their saint's name printed in a large font on an A4 sheet and to hold it aloft to show it to the congregation at the appointed time.

Confirmation begins in Meath Diocese

Confirmation in Ashbourne is now eight weeks away. The children are busy learning about the sacrament and reflecting on the Holy Spirit. Bishop Tom began confirmation last week in Trim and is with our faith community, God willing, on Saturday, March 23. The confirmation ceremony will again this year be a stand-alone ceremony at which each candidate, their sponsor and two other people attend. There will be a ceremony at 12 noon and one at 3pm with each seat being used in our church to accommodate the 186 'confirmandi'. Candidates and families are asked to follow all of the guidelines around keeping these important ceremonies prayerful and joyful. "Come Holy Spirit:..."



Mass Server's Rota

The new mass server's rota is available and runs up until Easter. We thank the children and their families for their work and service.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm



St. Brigid's Day February 1st Thursday 10am Mass

St. Brigid's Day is on Thursday and for many it heralds the beginning of the Irish spring and turning a back on winter. St. Brigid is the female patron saint of Ireland. She is also known as 'Muire na Gael' or 'Our Lady of the Irish'. Her image is now on Our Lady's altar as we reflect on her simple life of faith and generosity. It is welcome news that the government now has the first Monday in February each year as a public holiday. Many people had lobbied for this great woman to continue to be acknowledged for the role she played as a pioneer in bringing the flame of faith to many parts of our country. There is a strong tradition of children and adults in our parish making St. Brigid's crosses for her feast day. Mass with Blessing of the Crosses is at 10am.

Candlemas Day – Friday

On February 2nd candles are blessed at the 10am daily Mass as Christians celebrate 40 days since Christmas Day with the marking of the feast of Jesus' presentation in the temple. Our church candles will be blessed on Friday during the liturgy and if anyone has candles of their own they would like blessed please bring them to mass on this day. The parish is grateful to Ollie, aka 'the candle man' who as a volunteer diligently looks after candles and shrines in Ashbourne church. The feast of Jesus' presentation is also a day of prayer for those in religious life.



Feast of St Blaise – Saturday



Saturday is the Feast of St Blaise and the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening next will conclude with the blessing of throats. Alternatively you can visit Ashbourne church on that afternoon from 5 to 6pm when a priest is available. St. Blaise was an early bishop and martyr of the church and is venerated as the patron of those suffering from throat disease. His remains are in Dubrovnik in Croatia where throats are blessed every day of the year.

Monthly List of the Dead Mass and Calls to the Sick

Friday next is the First Friday in February. The 10am Mass will be offered for those enrolled on the Ashbourne-Donaghmore Altar List of the Dead. Our priests will do communion calls to those on the parish list also on this day. If anyone is at home and cannot get to mass and wish to receive the sacrament they should contact the parish.



Why not do the Camino this Year?

Fr. Derek Darby, Meath Diocesan Pastoral Co-ordinator, is leading a Holy Week pilgrim walk on the final stretch of the Camino de Santiago. An average walk of 20km, flights, hotel accommodation and coach transfers are in the price of €1,150 pps. For more information on this pilgrimage or any of the camino pilgrim trails contact Marian Pilgrimages (01) 8788159.



Synod Update

In October 2021, Pope Francis announced a Universal Synod on the theme of synodality. Its official title is 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.' Following two years of preparation, listening and dialogue at parish, diocesan and universal level, more than 360 people gathered in Rome last October for its first session. Bishop Brendan Leahy from the Diocese of Limerick and Bishop Alan McGuckian from the Diocese of Raphoe were the two bishop nominees of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference who attended. The report of their experience is found online at www.synod.ie/bishopsreport and a two page summary has been put up on Ashbourne Church noticeboard. Alternatively you can scan this QR-Code.



Financial Update

The 2023 Building and Development Fund comes to an end this Sunday and next weekend a new financial year begins in our parish. A member of the Parish Finance Committee will speak at masses on the Bank Holiday weekend. They will outline where money is spent, thank parishioners and encourage parishioners to continue to support their parish as best they can.

2024 Envelope Boxes Are Ready For Collection

The delivery of the boxes were two weeks late coming to us so we ask parishioners to collect and distribute them in the coming days as best they can. They can be collected from the Parish Office from 9am on Tuesday morning. We ask parishioners to help with their delivery in their local area or to call in to the Parish Office to collect their own regular box.



We thank all parishioners who use this means of supporting our parish. If you wish to use an Envelope Box as a means of supporting the parish please phone Mary in the parish office and she will organise a box for you.

Second Collection at Mass Today

After holy communion today there is a collection to contribute towards the parish contribution to the diocesan cess of €9,000. The money collected across parishes in Meath supports the work of church welfare agencies including Accord Catholic Marriage care, prison chaplaincy, communications office, the National Safeguarding Board, and the Council for Immigrant and Emigrant Support. This is one of six second collections that take place annually in our parish. All those contributing are thanked for their support as are the stewards who help collect our parish offering. Last Sunday's Collection were Plate €1400.00; Shrines €875.00; Development Fund €760.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish and we thank all those making their annual offering as the parish financial year concludes. Mile buiochas.



We pray for Carmel Kelly, Glasnevin - mother in law of Joan Kelly, Greenogue. Your prayers are also asked for the repose of Nora Gilroy, Athboy. Nora was mother to Fr. Tom, Parish Priest of Kinnegad in County Westmeath.

