



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

Feast of The Baptism of the Lord B



"I have baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8)

Mass Intentions

Saturday 6th	10am	Mass of the Epiphany
<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Patrick & Frances Loughran;
	8pm	John Scanlon;
		Winnie & Angela Houlihan
		Annual Parish Carol Service
Sunday 7th	9am	Joan Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Sean Conway
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11 am	James & Catherine Mc Donnell
	12.30pm	Margaret and Joseph Kelly
Monday 8th	10am	Pat Keane
Tuesday 9h	10am	Tony Malone
Wednesday 10th	10am	Catherine Walsh
Thursday 11th	10am	Celia & Reiltin Farrell
Friday 12th	10am	Joan & Seamus Lyon
Saturday 13th	10am	Tom Daly; William & Ann Henry & deceased family members;
		Bridget & John Garvey & deceased Boylan & Garvey family; John Hearty; Paul Donnelly and son Paul
Sunday 14th	9am	Christopher Tormey
Donaghmore	10am	Marie O'Donnell
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11 am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish

Parish Pastoral Assembly The first full meeting of the Parish Pastoral Assembly will take place on Tuesday evening next at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The assembly will begin its task of working on four key pastoral areas identified in last year's parish survey. This meeting will 'brainstorm' the four key areas and begin to assess and address in practical ways shortcomings or improvements that can be made in our parish pastoral ministry.

Renewal of Baptism Promises



This Sunday we mark the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. All four Gospels record Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist which heralds the start of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was thirty years of age when baptised. At mass we renew our baptismal promises and we are sprinkled with holy water as we pledge our allegiance to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our baptism sets us apart and calls us into union with God.

Parish Baptism Guidelines

Baptisms take place in Ashbourne Church every Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm. To strengthen the connection of baptism with the gathering of the faith community parents introduce themselves and their new baby to a priest of the parish after attending Sunday Mass and express their desire to have their child baptised. The parents receive a 'Baptism Request Form' and information on preparing for the celebration of the sacrament. The Baptism Request Form is then completed and returned to the Parish office or one of the priests. Up to four baptisms take place on any given Saturday. At least two weeks advance notice is necessary and once the form is processed the Parish Secretary will confirm the baby's baptism date by email and telephone.



Yearly Statistics on Parish Baptisms

In 2023 there were 95 infant baptisms (49 girls and 46 boys). Two adult baptisms took place at Easter and two adults received Confirmation. 128 baptisms took place in 2022; 145 in 2021; 95 in 2020 and 157 in 2019.

Holy Water in our parish

Holy Water is available in the metal container outside the Sacristy Door next to the cemetery in Ashbourne Church grounds. Parishioners are welcome to take Holy Water from this container when the church grounds are open.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

2023

Year in Review

2023 was the year substantial works were carried out on the Parochial House in Ashbourne Church campus. The house was reconfigured removing the housekeeper's rooms and a full mechanical

and electrical upgrade of the building was initiated. To achieve a higher Ber rating the house was wrapped in insulation, solar panels installed on a newly insulated roof and the chimney of the building was removed. The large apex roof on the garage was taken down and the garage and boiler house space was reconfigured to enhance and add badly needed storage space for both the house and church. As part of planning permission a total of eighteen overhead wires were taken down that ran between the parish buildings.

A comprehensive survey was carried out in the first quarter of 2023 to help the parish identify its needs, strengths and weaknesses. Following on from this a Parish Pastoral Assembly was formed in October and received training from Fr. Derek, the diocesan pastoral co-ordinator. In July Fr. Ciarán was appointed to Ballivor Parish and we welcomed two new priests, Fr. Brendan and Fr. Stephen from the Institute of the Incarnate Word. In September children began serving at Mass again in our parish after a hiatus due to covid. In April as part of church outreach to those in need our parish facilitated young Ukraine children and their families having a place to meet, chat and play games. At the year's end new boilers were installed in the Parish Centre and Ashbourne Church as both buildings had boilers that were over ten years old and were working poorly.

Following a break in to the Parish Centre during the year new security measures were introduced on campus including new alarm systems and a locking of the pedestrian gate into the church grounds. Works on the leaking Parish Centre roof were completed and condensation ingress addressed in July. During the summer comprehensive work was also done on fire procedures and improvement of fire safety equipment. Part of this audit was the purchase of a large fire -proof safe for all the parish registers. In July also, minor works were carried out on the curate's residence in Brookville, and works to facilitate the flood scheme that severely impacted the front and back gardens of the house are nearly completed. In November the gutters were cleaned on Ashbourne Church and broken slates repaired. New ridge tiles were installed as part of safeguarding this protected structure. As part of health and safety measures significant tree surgery took place on both church grounds in the run up to Christmas. Donaghmore Church received significant investment during the summer/autumn months with a new roof placed over the sacristy, bathroom and meeting room.

Altogether in 2023 the parish had 95 baptisms, 6 weddings and 42 funerals. A total of 596 masses took place in our parish. These were some of the milestones that marked 2023 and go down in the Parish 'Chronicum'.



PARISH

Maintenance & Repair



Developing our Parish 2024

2023 was an unusual year in terms of the amount of expenditure that was made on parish buildings. The parish will now look at

progressing smaller expenditure projects that will enhance our parish and help it continue to grow and build strong vibrant faith communities in Ashbourne and Donaghmore.

In the near future significant ducting work to do with electrical, broadband and water piping will take place on Ashbourne Church grounds. During the year we will examine the insulation of the windows of Ashbourne Church and an enhancement to the church porch area of this primary sacred building. An electrical upgrade of Donaghmore Church is also scheduled to take place.

Discussions will continue around the future of the Old National School in the church grounds. Unfortunately, there is limited parish need for the building and, as we discovered last year, there would be a huge investment needed to repurpose the building with the current cost of construction and limited or minimal grants available to the church. While many people in the wider community want a building like this, no one wants to take on the costs or trojan work and time involved in maintaining such buildings. Our parish will be linked to other parishes in the future and our decisions going forward will have to have an eye on where things are going.

To develop our parish the new Parish Pastoral Assembly will work on the four pastoral areas identified in the parish synodal survey. As part of this team- effort it is envisaged that a new parish website will be launched. Continued work on liturgy will take place and supports enhanced for those involved in liturgical and pastoral ministries. Our parish is fortunate to have a great team of staff and volunteers supporting our priests in their ministry, and working with them to build the kingdom of God in Ashbourne and Donaghmore. We thank all those who support our parish and look forward to continuing to develop our parish and bring those around us the good news of Jesus.



New Year Sacramental Dates

Confirmation: Saturday 23rd March

Holy Communion

Saturdays 18th and 25th May

Epiphany Announcement of Easter 2024

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the 14th day of February Ash Wednesday falls, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 31st day of March we will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 12th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 19th day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 2nd day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 1st day of December, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.