

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

ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

Confessions every Saturday 5-6pm



Feast of the Holy Family B

On this feast on the Sunday after the beginning of Christmas 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 we thank God for the family that Jesus was born into and the example of love that radiates from Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Mass Intentions

Saturday	7pm	Noel Rock; Kathleen, William, Maureen and James Moloney; Jim, Mary and Tom Stenson; Jane Kellegher; Patrick Simpson and Joe Cunnane
<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>		
Sunday 31st New Year's Eve	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 1st January Solemnity, Mary, Mother of God	10am	The first Mass of 2024 is offered for Peace in the World
Tuesday 2nd	10am	Bernard Hanratty
Wednesday 3rd	10am	Brian O'Reilly
Thursday 4th	10am	People of the Parish
Friday 5th	10am	Parish List of the Dead
Saturday 6th	10am 7pm 8pm	Mass of the Epiphany Patrick & Frances Loughran; John Scanlon. Annual Parish Carol Service
Sunday 7th	9am	Joan Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Sean Conway
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Margaret and Joseph Kelly



Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Mary, Mother of God and Our Mother, nourish our family with Your faith and Your love. Keep us close to Your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement and anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Pope Francis on Family Life at Christmas

Always remember in your family to say 'Please, Thank You and Sorry'.

Celebrate happy moments, value everyone's achievements and successes and support one another in difficult passages of life.

Give a kind look. Never underestimate the value of a gaze of love.

Learn to forgive. Before we can forgive others we must learn to forgive ourselves. Be slow to point out the limitations of a loved one.

Listen to the older members of the family. Tell their stories and encourage children and adolescents to learn from their experience.

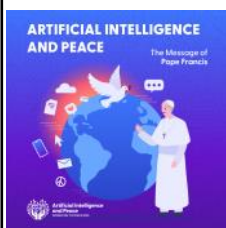
Be slow to judge another whose situation you do not fully understand.



Our Parish Office re-opens to our parishioners on Tuesday next at 9am. Mary Mullen is our parish secretary and she runs our Parish office. The Parish office opens four days a week from 9am to 12.30pm. Mary or any of our priests can be contacted in person or by phone on (01) 8353149 or parish email.

January 1st - World Day of Prayer for Peace Mass at 10am in Ashbourne

Tomorrow is New Year's Day and it is the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. With Pope Francis and people of faith throughout the world, Masses are offered for world peace. There is much strife in the world at this particular time with war between Russia and Ukraine and conflict between Israel and Palestine. We can feel helpless and overwhelmed with the images and reports of war, killing, destruction and displacement of innocent people. One of the things that we can do is pray together for peace. Going to Mass on New Year's Day is an act of solidarity with Christians across the globe and intensifies Pope Francis' appeal for peace. All are welcome to our Mass for Peace. Is there a better way to get the new year off to a good start?



In his message for this World Day of Peace 2024 Pope Francis reflects on the impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence on world peace and urges the international community of nations to adopt a binding treaty that regulates its development and use.

He hopes new technologies will ultimately serve the cause of fraternity and peace: "It is my prayer at the start of the new year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world but will help put an end to wars and conflicts and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family."

Prayer for Peace *Attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon. Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth. Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let us bring hope. Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.



Other liturgical notes and reminders ...

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins again on Thursday next, 4th January from 10.30am to 8pm. All are encouraged to spend some time for adoration and quiet prayer. It is a wonderful New Year's Resolution.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 5pm to 6pm. All are welcome to receive the sacrament and it is another good way to begin the New Year.



Next Sunday, we celebrate the feast of Jesus' baptism. As part of this Mass we reflect on what it means that we are baptised and we renew our Baptismal Promises.

The Feast of the Epiphany Masses at 10am and 7pm



On Saturday we celebrate the twelfth day of Christmas with the Feast of the Epiphany. It is a day when we remember the Magi following a star and bringing gifts to the crib. Morning mass in Ashbourne will be at 10am and mass that evening will be at 7pm. The Parish Carol Service will take place in the Church at 8pm that evening.

Our Annual Parish Carol Service takes place next Saturday evening at 8pm in Ashbourne Church. As we mark 'little Christmas' and the arrival of the Magi we will gift Baby Jesus with an hour of celebratory carols in his honour.



Thanks to Volunteers in our Parish

As 2023 concludes today, gratitude is expressed to all our parish volunteers. You have helped ensure this year's Christmas ceremonies are beautifully and meaningfully celebrated in our churches. It is by people being involved in their parish in a voluntary capacity that the faith community is strengthened and the message of Christ is kept alive and active. On behalf of all parishioners you are thanked. Mile buíochas.



Thanks to those making their Annual Offering



Fr. Michael and the priests of the parish are grateful to those making their annual Christmas offering at this time. We thank those who have given to their parish in recent days. The Christmas dues in

Meath Diocese make up a large part of the monthly salary paid to the priests in a parish. One third of dues to a parish come in usually at Christmas and there are five other offering collections throughout the year to raise the finance for the number two priest's welfare account. If you have not got around toward giving to us yet, it is not too late. Please put your offering in an envelope and drop it into the Safe Deposit Donation Box which is at the back of Ashbourne Church near the shrine of St Joseph or hand it into the Parish Office. Next week the Christmas contribution amounts will be published.

We pray for those who have died this Christmastide

We pray especially for Martha Gallagher from Brindley Park Road whose funeral took place in Cabra on Friday morning. We pray for her soul and for all of the faithful departed.

New Year poem...

'Let go of the old, reach out for the new, for the past is cold and the future is due. Each year holds memories, some happy - some sad, we must treasure the good, let go of the bad. Make the most of each day at work and at play, for the old year is history, the future - a mystery'. Phylis Ellison.