



# 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

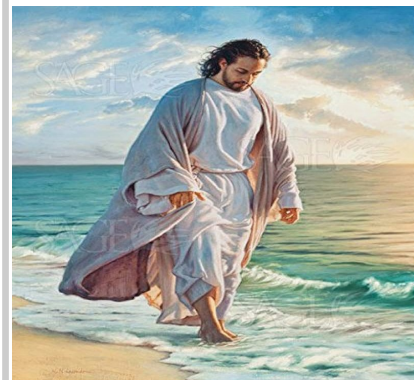
Monday - Thursday 9am - 12.30pm

Telephone: 01 8353149

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

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

## 6th Sunday B



"A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees; 'if you want to' he said 'you can cure me'. Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him." *Mark 1: 40-41*

### Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th	7pm	John Fox, Tara Court, (1st Anniversary) Gerard Fanning; Lee Moore; Paul Meleady; Niamh Dalton and Maura Farrell; Mary Dignam; Wendy Fleming; Joseph and Esther Larkin
Sunday 11th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Paddy Moran
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12th	10am	John, Patrick & Ellen McDonald
Tuesday 13th	10am	Margaret Minter
Wednesday 14th	10am	Joe Kenny
Thursday 15th	10am	Jack Cosgrove
Friday 16th	10am	Michael Moynihan
Saturday 17th	7pm	John Beggy; Mary Fanning; Philip O'Connor; Joe Finn; Deceased members of McEvoy and Farrell Families; Paddy Downes
Sunday 18th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Bill Henry
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Ciarán Gibney, Racehill Lodge, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Terry Brennan, Maple Grove, (1st Anniversary)



### Temperance Sunday

This Sunday, three days before Lent begins, is called Temperance Sunday. Followers of Jesus, like ourselves, look at our lives to see if there are any areas that require greater self discipline. Jesus asks us to improve prayer, fasting and good works. Lent is about what we do and how we live for

Christ. As you join us for Mass this Sunday, you are invited to begin to reflect on addressing some area of your life that needs improvement and allow God's grace to help you be a better Christian person this Lent.

### Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

This Sunday, 11th February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. As part of the 10am Mass on Tuesday the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated. We particularly invite those in our parish who are sick or infirm in some way to come to this Mass for Anointing of the Sick. The parish statue of our Lady of Lourdes has been placed in front of the altar.



*Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us*

### Ash Wednesday

**Masses at 10am and 7pm**

**Ashes Distributed 2pm to 5pm**



Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. It is a day of fast and abstinence and marks the beginning of Lent. There will be Masses at 10am and 7pm.

People will have the option of receiving ashes on their foreheads or taking home a little ash to apply it themselves. The priests of the parish will also be available with ashes in Ashbourne Church from 2pm to 5pm on Wednesday. This time is also an opportunity for the sacrament of confession as parishioners embark on the Lenten opportunity of spiritual renewal. Why not get Lent off to a great start by making a good confession as you receive the ash and start the Lenten journey?

### Parish Pastoral Assembly Meeting

The second meeting of the Parish Pastoral Assembly takes place on Tuesday evening next at 7pm in the Parish Centre.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

The Lenten billboards will be displayed from Ash Wednesday. Our churches will also have a Lenten desert scene to encourage parishioners to enter into the journey and awakening of Lent. Purple is the traditional colour of Lent and our priests wear purple vestments at most liturgies over the next 40 days. Purple represents the call to renew our lives spiritually, and to reflect on what it is that Christ achieved for us through his passion and death. During this season the Alleluia and Gloria are no longer said or sung at Mass and flowers on the sanctuary are kept at a minimum. This is all part of us 'stripping ourselves' back to the essentials and 'entering the desert' of Lent.



### The Stations of the Cross



Each Friday evening of Lent there are public Stations of the Cross at 7pm in Ashbourne Church. Reflections are posted again this year beside each of the fourteen stations. The stations remind us of the 'Way of Jesus' and invite us to find our 'Way to Jesus'. You are encouraged this Lent to use the stations as a means of meditation. As you make a sacrifice of your time to follow Jesus' journey, rise above everyday stresses by expressing gratitude and love to Jesus for His supreme sacrifice on Good Friday. 'We adore You O Christ and we praise You because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world'.

### Trocáire Boxes 2024

Trocáire Boxes are available at the end of all Masses today. Please take one home with you if interested. This year's giving campaign aims to support the people of Malawi. Many in this country are struggling to live with the effects of climate change and abject poverty. These are ordinary people – just like Malita– highlighted in this year's Lenten campaign. We are being asked to help communities in Malawi through prayer and finance. Try this Lent to help people in need and contribute to Trocáire's mission to work 'Together for a Just World'.

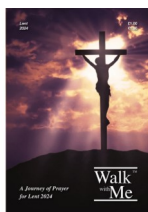


### Cleaning of Ashbourne Church This Shrove Tuesday

Have you an hour to give to your faith community this Tuesday? Are you good at working with others? A group of parishioners will meet in the church at 11am to clean the inside of the church in preparation for the season of Lent. All helpers will be welcome. There is no need to bring anything but a willing heart. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers in keeping our parish active and strong.



### Walk With Me Booklets



Once again this year 'Walk with Me' Lenten booklets will be available to parishioners. The booklets help people who go to daily Mass to reflect on the Lenten readings. The booklets will be available after Mass on Tuesday morning and a donation of €1.50 will cover the cost.

### Saturday Morning 10am Mass For Lent

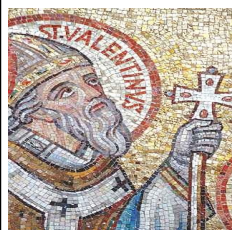
There will be a 10am Mass on five Saturdays of Lent. This is to help those who like to attend Mass each day for this sacred season. On March 23rd there is just the 7pm Mass.

### 'Accord' Marriage Care

Accord is the catholic marriage support service agency in Ireland. Trained facilitators provide pre marriage courses and on-going marriage support to couples. They also provide counselling to couples seeking help. The Meath diocesan office of Accord is in Navan and their website is [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)



### The Story Behind St. Valentine



As St. Valentine's Day is celebrated on Ash Wednesday it is worth reflecting on the man behind the name. Valentine was a priest in Rome. According to the Roman martyrology, Valentine died for the faith, 14<sup>th</sup> February 269, under Claudius II, the Emperor at the time. The martyrology says: "At Rome, on the Flaminian Way, the heavenly birthday of the blessed martyr Valentine, a priest. After performing many miraculous cures and giving much wise counsel he was beaten and beheaded under Claudius Caesar." The Roman Emperor Claudius II forbade the young men to marry because he thought single men were better soldiers. Valentine secretly married young couples and was arrested and put in prison. The threat of death could not induce Valentine to renounce his faith. While in prison he prayed for and healed the blind daughter of a judge, Asterius, who with his family converted to Christianity and suffered martyrdom with Valentine. In 498AD Pope Gelasius named February 14<sup>th</sup> St. Valentine's Day. A Basilica was built in his honour near the cemetery of St. Hippolytus where his remains were found. In the nineteenth century, a relic of the saint was given to the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar Street, and married couples celebrating significant anniversaries visit this Irish shrine of St. Valentine to renew their vows. The crocus, which flowers about this time of year, is also known as St. Valentine's flower.

### Getting Married in the Coming Months?

Any couple getting married in the coming months are asked to make sure that they do their pre marriage course and the church paperwork in plenty of time. This is to ensure that all is organised and the couple can focus on planning their ceremony in the church with their priest in the months coming up to the wedding. Our priests meet brides and grooms to be on a Saturday afternoon in the Parish Office.



### Still Not Got Your Envelope Box?



Thanks to everyone who distributed the Envelope Boxes in recent days. Everyone who uses them should now have one. If for some reason you have not yet got your box or would like to regularise your offerings by means of the envelopes please let us know this week so that we can get one to you. If anyone has an Envelope Box with a incorrect name or address please let the Parish Office know so we can amend any mistakes.

### Second Collection This Weekend

There are two collections at Mass today. The first is the regular Plate Collection for the day to day running of our parish. The second after communion is one of six annual Offertory Collections that supports a basic salary for the three priests of our parish. Last Sunday's Collection Total were Plate €1530.00; Shrines €1065.00; Development Fund €730.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.

