



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

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1st Sunday Lent B



In today's gospel from the first chapter of St. Mark's account of Jesus' life we hear of Jesus' time in the wilderness.

Mass Intentions

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)
Monday 19th	10am	Tess Feehan
Tuesday 20th	10am	Annie and Joseph Seagrave
Wednesday 21st	10am	Patricia O'Meara
Thursday 22nd Donaghmore	10am 1.30pm	Peter Spratt Wedding Celebration
Friday 23rd	10am	Tony, Eilish and Kevin Bartley
Saturday 24th	10am 7pm	People of the Parish—Extra Mass for the Season of Lent Harry Cullen; Niamh Carson; Michael Battersby; Sheila and Gerry Ryan; Jack and Eileen Scally; Michael Larkin; Margaret and Joey Norris; Peg Hardy
Sunday 25th	9am	Kathleen and Jimmy Lee
Donaghmore	10am	Teresa Moran
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	George Wilton, Alderbrook Glen (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Thomas Milner, Huntsgrove, (1st Anniversary)

Lent



We are all asked to 'go into the desert' so to 'strip things back' that hinder our relationship with God.

Welcome First Confession Families

We welcome to Sunday Mass the children who are getting ready to receive first confession this Lent. The girls and boys will join us in the 'I confess' and 'Lord, have mercy' prayers at Mass today. They have been learning that a sin is a time when one does not show love. They have brought with them their art proclaiming that 'God is Love'. On Saturday afternoon next the first confession families from St. Declan's Primary School will be in Ashbourne Church from 4 to 6pm.



First Confession Guidelines

First Confession takes place a year before Holy Communion in our parish and happens during Lent. Parents have taken the opportunity to request the sacrament for their child. The sacrament of reconciliation is about responding to God's love and being able to forgive and say sorry for our faults and failings. Parents are asked to continue bringing their child to confession at least once a year. Parents bringing their child to confession should consider going to confession themselves. It is as always voluntary but children learn from example in the home. We hope that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time will always know and celebrate God's love.



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



Confessions this Saturday 4pm to 6pm

What are you doing for

Lent?



Pray



Fast



Give

The Lenten billboards are now displayed to remind people passing our Church of the Lenten season. Our churches 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.

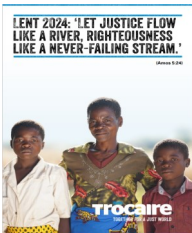


STATIONS of the CROSS

Did you know that the Stations of the Cross go back to the early Christians. When war prevented medieval pilgrims from visiting the actual sites in

Jerusalem, artists created images representing these events so the faithful could express their devotion. The Franciscans spread this practice in the twelfth century and erected small chapels highlighting the different steps of Jesus' sorrowful journey. Since 1731 the stations have numbered 14 and they have been promoted especially during Lent and on Fridays. An extra 15th station was put up in Ashbourne church when the stations were erected on its walls in 1981. You are encouraged this Lent to do the stations. Reflections under each station in Ashbourne Church help us to enter into each scene. On the Friday evenings of Lent there are public stations at 6pm and 7pm. The 6pm stations are in Indian and the 7pm stations in English. All are welcome.

Trocáire Boxes and envelopes are available again this Sunday in our churches. This year's giving campaign aims to support the people of Malawi. Trocáire and the Lenten institution of the Trocáire Box celebrates 51 years this year. In 1973 the charity was founded by the Irish church to help provide aid to poor people in the developing world.



Al- Anon Meetings are for people who are affected or troubled by another person's drinking. For help and support you can contact them at (01) 8732699.

Lenten Prayer

During our Lenten journey, may we focus on
Prayer ... as love for God,
Fasting ... as love for ourselves and
Almsgiving ... as love for others.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pope Francis Announces Year of Prayer



To prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025 Pope Francis has asked for 2024 to be a time dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in their life of the Church and the world. In our parish for Lent we are going to

reflect on the three great Catholic prayers on three Tuesday evenings. On Tuesday next at 7pm in the Parish Centre Fr. Stephen will lead reflection, prayer and discussion on the Lord's prayer. On March 5 Fr. Brendan will help us discuss the 'Hail Mary' and on March 19 Fr. Michael will help us grow in our appreciation of the 'Glory Be'. "Prayer doesn't help our relationship with God! Rather Prayer IS our relationship with God!"



Pope Francis declaring 2024 as a Year of Prayer

Marking the Foundation of the New Church



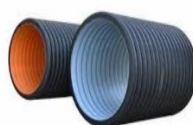
On Thursday we will celebrate the Foundation Day of Ashbourne Church. 22 February 1981 is the day that the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by Bishop John McCormack. We thank everyone who helps us look after this important building in the centre of our town.

Hospitality after the Sunday 11am Mass

During Lent, our Sunday Hospitality continues in the Parish Centre after the 11am Mass. All are welcome. For the season however we hold back on the 'goodies' and raise awareness of cutting back to give to Trocáire and the people they work with.



Ducting Works in Ashbourne Church Grounds



The ducting works in Ashbourne Church grounds began on Wednesday and will last until the end of the week. New piping for broadband and electricity is being installed so that our campus better complies with safety specifications. All the electrical overhead wires are now gone to ground as required by planning permission for works on the Parochial House and Old National School.

Accounts Handed Over



Fr. Michael handed over the accounts of our parish to the diocesan accountant last week. All of the 2023 receipts and lodgements of our parish were given in electronic and paper format. These are now processed and the official 'Income and Expenditure Sheet' will be presented to the parish in April once the accountancy firm has their work done. Our parish accounts makes up one 69th of the audited accounts of the charity that we belong to called 'St. Finian's Diocesan Trust'. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1270; Offertory Collection €3280; Shrines €740; Development Fund €950.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.

