



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

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4th Sunday Lent B

'Laetare Sunday'

10 March 2024



Mass Intentions

Saturday March 9th	7pm	Christopher and Annie Kavanagh; Lorraine Gray; Paddy McGrath; Frank and Patricia McHutcheon; Margaret and Paddy Daly; Tony Mulvany; James and Cecilia Kelly
Sunday March 10th	9am	Adrian Ayres
Donaghmore	10am	Larry and Jack Kearns
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Chris McLoughlin
Monday 11th	10am	Deceased of the Mulholland and O'Connell Families
Tuesday 12th	10am	Eileen Ward
Wednesday 13th	10am	Seamus Gohery
Thursday 14th	10am	Olive Curran
Friday 15th	10am	John, Annie and Jackie Fitzsimons
Saturday 16th	10am	Lenten Mass -People of the Parish
	7pm	Deceased of the Grattan Family; Olive Curran; Michael Larkin; Gerry O'Leary
Sunday 17th St. Patrick's Day	9am	Jimmy Steward
Donaghmore	10am	Patrick Bobbett, Fleenstown (1st Anniversary)
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Deceased Members of the Thynne (Mary and Andy) and Cooney Families (Maureen and William)
	12.30pm	Breda Cahill

Laetare Sunday

"Rejoice Sunday"

The Fourth Sunday of Lent has traditionally been referred to as 'Laetare Sunday', from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon meaning 'Rejoice'. As the priest wears pink vestments, the Church reminds us to refresh ourselves with joy in the midst of our Lenten penance as we look forward to the happiness of Easter. Even though we fix our minds this season on the suffering and death of our Lord, we remember too that the resurrection has already taken place.

Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day takes place always on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We reflect on the natural bond between mothers and their children defined by love. As a good mother's prayers for her children are unending so are the wisdom, grace and strength they provide to their children. As we reflect today on motherhood we thank them in word and prayer for their wonderful role in society. Pope Francis



in early January said "The world needs to look to mothers, and to women, in order to find peace, to emerge from the spiral of violence and hatred, and once more see things with genuinely human eyes and hearts."

Update on the Synod in Rome

The Meath Diocesan Synodal Team invite you to join them on Wednesday evening next in Ashbourne Parish Centre as they to offer feedback on the Synod which was held in Rome last October. Fr. Declan Hurley, Administrator of Navan Parish is one of the Irish Synodal leaders and he and his lay team wish to hear your comments on the Church and the passing on of the faith. We thank those organising hospitality and setting up the Parish Centre for the occasion. All are more than welcome.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Cemetery Devotions 2024

The Annual Cemetery Masses and Prayers will take place on the following dates in June. Mass for all our loved ones interred in Killelland and Ashbourne Church Cemeteries will take place in Ashbourne Church at 7pm on Saturday June 1st. Blessing of graves in Ashbourne Cemetery at 7.45pm and Killelland Cemetery at 8.30pm. Mass for those interred in the cemeteries of Donaghmore and Greenogue at 10am on Sunday June 2nd. This is followed by the blessing of Graves at 10.45am in Donaghmore and 11.30am in Greenogue. Mass for all the faithful departed interred in St. Declan's Cemetery will be at 7pm on Saturday June 8th in Ashbourne Church. Blessing of graves in St. Declan's Cemetery follow at 8.00pm.

Keeping Our Cemeteries Tidy

Rubbish from graves in Ashbourne Church was dumped twice this week along the main wall of the cemetery. The rubbish is left there for people to see. In Donaghmore rubbish is heaped in the left hand corner of this sacred space in our parish. If people bring flowers, wreaths or decorations to a grave they must also take responsibility to take them away with them. We ask everyone to be vigilant around this issue. We ask parishioners with a grave to maintain their family plot well and keep it tidy throughout the year. We ask parishioners to do any works on their graves at an early date to avoid any last minute rush at the time of cemetery devotions.



The 'Glory Be' and the Stations



On Tuesday evening week at 7pm in the Parish Centre Fr. Michael will lead reflection on the great Catholic Prayer the 'Glory be to the Father'. This is part of Pope Francis' call to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. The fourteen Stations of the Cross in our churches are traditionally prayed during Lent. The reflections in Ashbourne Church remind us of the way Jesus carried the cross and the ways we can walk with Jesus this Lent. As we pass half way of Lent do take the time to pray the stations and deepen your relationship with the Lord. On Friday evening public stations take place at 7pm in our church. All are welcome.



Well done to those who received their 1st Confession

Congratulations to the children attending St. Mary's School who received the sacrament of confession for the first time yesterday. The children were excellently prepared by their parents and teachers. We thank all involved in their preparation. We hope that all the children receiving the sacrament for the first time this Lent will always know and celebrate God's love. Confessions take place in Ashbourne Church every Saturday from 5 to 6pm.



Confirmation is on Saturday Week

The two ceremonies for Confirmation on Saturday week are at 12 noon and 3pm. 196 children have been prepared for the sacrament. Parents and children are asked to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Tom as he visits our parish for his annual visit. Confessions for the children and their families will take place on Wednesday evening March 20th from 7 to 8pm in Ashbourne Church.



Celebrate St. Patrick

St. Patrick's Day is next Sunday and Masses are as usual next weekend. There is no better way to celebrate St. Patrick than to attend Mass in his honour. **Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, Donaghmore is at 10am. Ashbourne Masses are at 7pm on Saturday next and 9am, 11am and 12.30pm.** The 11am will be in English and Irish with Mass leaflets available with the Irish Mass responses. People are encouraged to wear shamrock to Mass and don some green. Shamrock will be blessed at Masses as a reminder of how this Welsh man explained the Blessed Trinity in simple language to the people of our land. With the parade in Ashbourne at an earlier time this year the Chamber of Commerce assure us that they will do all they can to keep disruption to our last St. Patrick's Day Mass at a minimum. Parking for the 12.30pm Mass will be in SuperValu carpark and we are assured stewards will make sure there is parking for those going to Mass. Assistance will also be available for anyone needing to be dropped off at the Church.



Parish Meetings

The Parish Pastoral Assembly will meet on Tuesday evening next at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The Parish Pastoral Assembly continues the major work of renewing our parish website. It is looking at small ways of helping our parish to strengthen its evangelising mission to parents, young people and all parishioners. There is a Finance Meeting on Tuesday evening, March 19th at 5.30pm, in the Parish Centre. The Parish Finance Committee continue to look at options for what to do with the Old National School next to Ashbourne Church.



The Important Week for Christians



Plans for Holy Week in Ashbourne are now being put in place. If you have any suggestions for the ceremonies or any ideas of a new way we might mark these days please do let us know. Have a word with one of our priests or send your ideas by email.

Second Collection at Masses This Weekend

A second collection happens at Masses today after Holy Communion. This collection goes towards the annual insurance premium of €16016. Insurance is paid on parish related activities and all our church buildings. We have one of the highest insurance bills in Ashbourne due to protected structure status of Ashbourne Church, Parish centre and Donaghmore Church. We thank our parishioners who support the collection and our stewards for their help in taking up the collections. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1660; Shrines €940; Development Fund/Yearly Donation €2800. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.



Prayers for the Deceased

We pray for the eternal repose of Peter Hughes, Bourne Avenue whose funeral takes place on Monday morning at 11am in Ashbourne Church. Peter is fondly remembered for coming to Mass and for being part of the Folk Group and Family Mass Christmas Eve Celebration. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. May he rest in peace. Amen.

