



# 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

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

**5th Sunday Lent B**

17 March 2024

St. Patrick's Day

**A GRAIN  
OF WHEAT**

John 12:20-36

## Mass Intentions

Saturday March 16th	7pm	Olive Curran; Michael Larkin; Gerry O'Leary
Sunday 17th 5th Sunday Lent	9am	St. Patrick's Day Jimmy Steward
Donaghmore	10am	Patrick Bobbett, Fleenstown (1st Anniversary)
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after St. Patrick's Day Mass	11am	Deceased Members of the Thynne (Mary and Andy) and Cooney Families (Maureen and William)
	12.30pm	Breda Cahill
Monday 18th	10am	Mary Dunne
Tuesday 19th	10am	Tom Higgins
Wednesday 20th	10am	Hugh Gallagher
Thursday 21st	10am	Dennis, Mary and Noreen Sullivan
Friday 22nd	10am	Joan Stephens
Saturday 23rd	10am 7pm	People of the Parish Marian Anderson, Hickeys Lane, (1st Anniversary) James, Ellen and Gerard McGrath; Shay Moore, Marie Weston; Peggy Fleming; Tommy Byrne and Deceased Heapes and Byrne Families; Margaret Clarke
Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday		
Sunday 24th Palm Sunday	9am	Beginning Of Holy Week Kit Gillett
Donaghmore	10am	Patrick and Elizabeth Murray
Hospitality Parish Centre	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Peter McBride, Hunts Grove (Month's Mind)

## Celebrating St. Patrick



Today is St. Patrick's Day. There is no better way to celebrate our patron saint than to attend Mass. Mass in the Church of St. Patrick, Donaghmore is at 10am. Ashbourne Masses are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm. The 11am will be in English and Irish.

Shamrock is blessed at Mass today as a reminder of how this great Welsh man explained the Blessed Trinity. As part of the 11am Mass we have some traditional Irish music and a post communion liturgical dance. Hospitality in the Parish Centre has a music for all those attending. Bígi linn. With the parade in Ashbourne at an earlier time this year due to St. Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday the Chamber of Commerce assure us that they will do all they can to keep disruption to our 12.30pm Mass to a minimum. We wish everyone an enjoyable day. We particularly wish the faith community of Donaghmore a very 'Happy St. Patrick's Day' as they celebrate their church patron.

*Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig orainn go léir*

## Confirmation on Saturday

Bishop Tom Deenihan will visit our parish on Saturday next to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on 196 children. Parents, children and sponsors are asked to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Tom and to help make Confirmation a prayerful, meaningful and joyous occasion. Our priests express thanks to all those helping them to organise the two ceremonies. At this time, all of us who believe are asked to be especially conscious of the Holy Spirit, and the call of God to live Spirit filled lives on earth. Confessions for the children and their families will take place on Wednesday evening next from 7 to 8pm in Ashbourne Church.

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and  
enkindle in us the fire of your love*



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

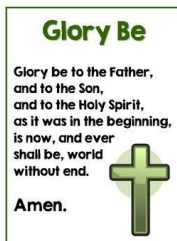
## Praying the Stations of the Cross



The fourteen Stations of the Cross in our churches are traditionally prayed during Lent. They help us make sense of suffering. The reflections in Ashbourne Church remind us of the way Jesus carried the cross and the ways we can walk with Jesus this Lent. With just ten days to the beginning of the Sacred Triduum do take the time to pray the stations and deepen your relationship with the Lord. On Friday evening next at 7pm in Ashbourne Church our priests will lead the stations. 'The Way of the Cross is the path of losing ourselves—the path of true love'. Pope Benedict XVI

## Reflection on the 'Glory Be to the Father'

On Tuesday evening next 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. It is important that we meet to talk about the value of prayer and share our experiences of our prayer and spiritual lives. The gathering will last about 50 minutes and all are welcome.



## Highlighting St Joseph on His Feast Day



On Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. A statue of 'Sleeping St. Joseph' made famous by Pope Francis is on display in Ashbourne Church. It depicts St. Joseph asleep as it was very often in his dreams that Joseph was guided by God.

"I would like to tell you something very personal. I have a great love for St. Joseph because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have a statue of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep he is taking care of the church. Yes, we know he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph so that he can dream about it. In other words, I tell him, pray for this problem". *Pope Francis*

Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God ... In marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the biggest compliment in calling him a "just" man. This man lived his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life .. A model for fathers everywhere.



## Registration of Donaghmore Church



In November 2019 when Fr. Derek was our parish priest the Parish Finance Committee applied to the Land Registry Office to get Donaghmore Church fully registered as owned by St. Finian's Diocesan Trust. The parish has received correspondence to say that this process is now complete. All properties

belonging to our parish and the Trust are now registered as per government directive.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Bank Holiday Weekend especially all those who help out in the Parish Office. The Office reopens at 9am on Tuesday next.



## Next Sunday Holy Week Begins

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. The centre of our Mass leaflets next weekend will have the Passion printed across two pages as we begin this most important week in the Christian calendar. Palm will be blessed at all Masses as we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem a few days before he was arrested and killed. Parishioners are encouraged to do all they can to participate fully in the Holy Week liturgies in both our churches. We thank everyone who is helping to organise our ceremonies.



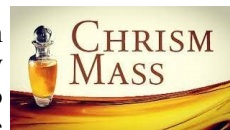
## Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday Masses in Ashbourne and Donaghmore Churches are as on a regular Sunday. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Last supper is at 8pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Good Friday Morning Prayer and Veneration of the Cross is in Donaghmore Church at 10am. Outdoor Way of the Cross will take place at 12 noon in Ashbourne Church grounds; Veneration of the Cross and Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 3pm in Ashbourne Church. Both our Churches will be open on Good Friday for people to visit and reflect on Jesus' death. Our Holy Saturday Vigil Mass is at 9pm; Easter Sunday Masses will celebrate what the resurrection means and are at 9am, 11am and 12.30pm in Ashbourne Church. Donaghmore Church will have Easter morning Mass at 10am.

## Diocesan Chrism Mass

Chrism Mass in the Cathedral in Mullingar will take place on Wednesday of Holy Week at 7pm. You are invited to this diocesan gathering at which the priests of Meath diocese renew their vows. Bishop Tom will lead the Eucharistic celebration and in his homily outline his vision for the diocese. The oils are blessed that priests use in parishes over the coming year. On this day in particular we pray for our bishop and priests as they serve the Lord in the 69 parishes of our diocese.



## Supporting Trocáire

Our parish supports and highlights the work of Trocáire each Lent. Please do what you can this year to donate to their work. Trocáire Boxes are available in our churches with information packs on how the money we raise is spent. On Holy Thursday we will begin taking up this year's proceeds.



## Parish Financial Matters

There is a Finance Meeting on Tuesday evening next 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 committee will as always be transparent and make decisions that they believe are best for the future development of our parish. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1320; 2nd Collection €1490; Shrines €1020; Development Fund/Yearly Donation €1110. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.

## Prayer for Deceased Parishioners

We pray for Elizabeth Kane, Broadmeadow Road and John Toner of Duleek and late of Fleenstown whose funeral Masses took place in Donaghmore during the week. We pray also for the late Dan McCartan, Co. Down (brother of George Glynn). May they rest in peace. Amen.

