

# ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Priests of the Parish

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The Parish Office re-opens tomorrow at 9am following the Easter break.

Our parish secretary is Mary Mullen.

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Year B**

7 April 2024



**'My Lord and My God'**

*John 20: 19-31*



## Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 6th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	John Landers; Declan Brennan; Kenneth Gray; Peggy Luttrell; Cora and Christopher Lowe; Deceased of the Grattan Family; Marese Kennedy
Sunday 7th	9am	Michael Kelly
Donaghmore	10am	Mortimer, Catherine & Deceased of the O'Sullivan Family
	11am	Marie McManus and Michael Sheady
	12.30pm	Gerald Dowd
Monday 8th	10am	Catherine Conroy
Tuesday 9th	10am 4pm	Chris McLoughlin Mass for Confirmation Families on the After School Parish Program
Wednesday 10th	10am	Maura Hourihan
Thursday 11th	10am	Votive Mass Prayers for Fine Weather
Friday 12th	10am	People of the Parish
Saturday 13th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Elizabeth Kane, Broadmeadow Road (Month's Mind) Mary & Andy Roche; Thomas Mintern; Pat Doherty; William McGrath; Patrick & Nora Muldoon; Mary Hemeryck
Sunday 14th	9am	Oliver & Mary Walsh
Donaghmore	10am	Maureen Weir and Margaret Doherty
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Judy Cassidy

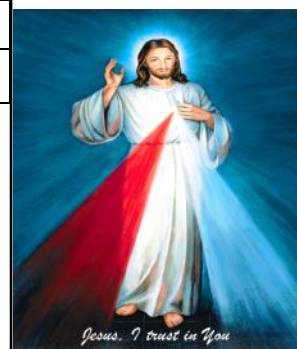


The Easter Octave ends today on this Second Sunday of Easter which is traditionally known as 'Low Sunday'. Some Catholics call today 'Doubting Thomas' Sunday as on this day every year we hear of Jesus' appearance eight days after Easter Sunday to St. Thomas the Apostle. The Easter Octave ends but the season continues until Pentecost Sunday so at Masses we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The paschal candle is prominent, the priest's vestments are white and the Alleluia is sung with enthusiasm. During this season the Book of the Acts of the Apostles is read at Masses and speaks to us of the early days of the church.



## Divine Mercy Sunday

On this Second Sunday of Easter we also mark Jesus' Divine Mercy. Pope St John Paul II established this devotion. As you look at the Divine Mercy Icon reflect on the message at the base of the painting 'Jesus I trust in You.' Note our Saviour's right hand raised in blessing and his left hand pointing to His Sacred Heart. The red rays that stream out of Jesus' heart symbolises His blood and the pale blue rays represent the water that justifies souls. St. Faustina, who received this revelation, said that the strongest of faith



is of no avail without works. We are asked to exercise divine mercy in three ways, the first by deed, the second by word, and the third in prayer. The Divine Mercy Icon that hangs in our Church is blessed at masses this Sunday. At 3 o'clock the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be led in Ashbourne Church.



The Parish Office re-opens to parishioners tomorrow morning at 9am. If you ever want to speak to a priest, book a Mass or simply learn about any aspect of our parish life please feel free to drop in. Mary is our parish secretary and the office is open to our parishioners from 9am to 12.30pm from Monday to Thursday.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5 to 6pm.

## A Word of Thanks for the Ceremonies over Holy Week



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Holy Week ceremonies. It was lovely to have had such uplifting and well attended liturgies. We are reviewing what went well and what we can improve for next year please God. It was a particularly busy time with St. Patrick's Day, Confirmation and Holy Week all happening in a two week period. Thanks to the mass servers, stewards, readers, ministers of the Eucharist, volunteer sacristans, altar society members and choir in our parish communities. The work that you do to enhance our liturgy week in week out is very much appreciated. It allowed many people experience the deep meaning of the ceremonies in a wonderful way. Thank you also to all those who organized the hospitality after Easter Sunday morning Mass in Ashbourne. It was a lovely happy occasion. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our liturgies next year please let us know.

### Improving Our Church Environment for Children

Two beautiful presses were installed in the Lady Chapel of Ashbourne Church just before Holy Week. These presses now give the children who serve Mass a separate press for the white albs that they wear for their ministry. The presses also give Ashbourne Church more storage space for our sacred liturgical vessels. The installation of this furniture is part of our commitment to improving the church environment for children involved in ministry in Ashbourne Church We thank all our Mass Servers and their parents for their commitment to our parish.



### Feast of the Annunciation and the Angelus

On Monday morning we remember how the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and revealed that she was chosen to be mother of the Lord. Mary was open to God's will in her life saying 'Let thy will be done'. Usually this feast is celebrated on March 25th, exactly 9 months out from the feast of Jesus' birth, but with that date falling during Holy Week it takes place on the first day outside of the Easter Octave. The Angelus is prayed by Catholics at 12 noon and 6pm each day. It commemorates the Incarnation and is linked to the biblical passages of the Annunciation and the Visitation. In Eastertide it is replaced by the Regina Coeli. All devotees are asked to ponder the words of this prayer and renew their commitment to praying the Angelus and spreading goodwill among all of God's people.



Our Easter faith contains a commissioning: to spread the Good News —How will you be an apostle during the Easter season? Ten ideas ...

1. Do a Random Act of kindness
2. Challenge a negative atmosphere by being enthusiastic!
3. Make a donation to a religious charity like Trócaire or St. Vincent de Paul
4. Let go of a long standing grudge
5. Re-evaluate your work patterns. How can they be more just and life giving?
6. Volunteer to read at Mass
7. Put yourself in another's shoes. Work hard at overcoming a deeply-ingrained prejudice.
8. As you walk along the streets, keep your head up and give people eye-contact, smiles and hellos.
9. Lighten up! Place your biggest worry in God's hands.
10. Be an 'Easter presence' to a person who is feeling down.



### New Parish Facebook Account

The new Parish Facebook is up and running. Posters with the QR code are on our Parish Noticeboards and will be published on this newsletter in the coming weeks as we get ourselves established. Our Facebook account is another way we get the message out of who we are and what we do. The Facebook account is an initiative of the Parish Pastoral Assembly whose next meeting will take place on Wednesday evening of this week at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The meeting will look at working together to improve our parish website and support for parents preparing children for the sacraments of Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

### Enrolment in Our Parish After School Program

Enrolment by parents of their children in after school parish sacramental classes for the next academic year begins this Tuesday evening. Fr. Michael and Kay Churm, the parish co-ordinator, will hold a meeting for all interested parents in Ashbourne Church at 8pm. Registration and Request Forms for the Sacraments of 1st Confession, Communion and Confirmation will be available on the night. Places in the classes are given on a first come first served basis and completed forms should be returned to the Parish Office before the end of May. A two- year program of catechesis takes place both for the sacrament of Holy Communion and Confirmation following Meath diocesan sacramental policy. For eleven years the parish has run these classes and is grateful to Kay, the teachers and parents who work with the priests in providing this opportunity to pass on the faith to children.



### Gratitude For Easter Offerings

Thank you to all those who have paid their Easter dues over the past few days. We are most grateful to all of our parishioners who give what they can to support the mission of our parish. The plate and envelope collection on Easter Sunday came to €9559. The candle shrines during Holy Week took in €1330. On Good Friday €1955 was collected for Christians in the Holy Places. We thank everyone for their generous contribution. Míle buíochas.



### Return of Any Remaining Trócaire Boxes

This year's Trócaire Lenten campaign has come to an end. We thank everyone who supported the Trócaire Collection on Holy Thursday. We also thank everyone who has returned their Trócaire box or envelope over the past fortnight. There is a Trócaire basket on our sanctuary for your returns or you can drop your box in to the Parish Office. On behalf of Trócaire and the people they work with we thank you for your generosity and outreach to the world's poorest of the poor.



### Rest in Easter Peace



We pray for Michael White of the Rath whose funeral took place on Easter Friday last in Ashbourne Church. He was buried in the family plot in Ashbourne Church Cemetery. May he and all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.