

ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

Priests of the Parish

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Parish Office

Open Tuesday - Friday

10.30am - 12pm

Parish Secretary Mary Mullen



4th Sunday of Year C

The gospel today tells us that Jesus is the prophet of God who speaks God's word of salvation. God's message is for everyone open to receive it and it calls us to be ambitious for the higher gifts, that is the gifts of faith, hope and love.



Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 29th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Joe Carthy, Milltown Estate (Months Mind) Marian Monks, Brookeville (Months Mind) Paul Kelly, Duleek (1st Anniversary) Mairead Locknane Maud, Bertie & Christy McDermott Anne & Jimmy Gough Mary Sullivan Phyllis Flo Woods John, Julia & deceased of the King Family
Sunday 30th	9am	Tess & Charlie Murphy
Donaghmore	10am	Christopher Kavanagh
	11am	Maeve Archbold, Garristown (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Denis McElliott
Monday 31st	10am	Finnegan Family
Feast of St. Brigid		
Tuesday 1st Feb	10am	Angela Farrell
The Presentation of the Lord		
Wednesday 2nd	10am	Joseph & Julia Brennan
Feast of St. Blaise		
Thursday 3rd	10am	Brennan Family
Friday 4th	10am	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday 5th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	George Collins, Milltown (Months Mind) Jozef Grayson Manus O'Byrne Anne & Steve Keane Gerry & Sheila Ryan Jack & Eileen Scally
Sunday 6th	9am	Finbar Daly
Donaghmore	10am	Sean & Peggy Barker
	11am	Donal O'Loingsigh, The Hawthorns (1st Anniversary) Martin Moore
	12.30pm	Seán Battersby

Prayers By Children from our Catholic Schools



At the 11am mass today two pupils from each parish school lead us in the prayer of the faithful. We thank the children and their parents for connecting our school, home and parish and for taking part in this Catholic Schools Week initiative. During the week the schools of our parish celebrated their ethos and the value system that is enshrined in their characteristic spirit. The theme for 2022 was 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'. In Ashbourne we have three schools under catholic or parish patronage. They are St. Mary's, St. Declan's and 'Gaelscoil na Cille'.

School Visitation

Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will visit the confirmation children in their classrooms this week to see the project work that the children are doing at this time on their confirmation name. At masses next Sunday the children will connect with the faith community by bringing their name cards to mass and displaying them for us to see. We all continue to think and pray for those preparing to receive the Holy Spirit.



Parish After School Sacramental Classes Resume

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the after school sacramental classes resume in the parish hall. Unfortunately, due to covid, class work was done online throughout January. We thank Kay, the teachers and parents for ensuring the classes run safely and smoothly. We thank parents for their cooperation.



Rota's for Ministers of the Eucharist and Word

New rota's are available in Ashbourne church this weekend. All ministers are welcome to pick up a rota from the ministers table next the presider's chair. The faith community welcomes at this time Ameera Ahmed as a new reader in our parish and we are grateful to Pat Heneghan, Anne Fitzsimons and John Dowling for volunteering as Ministers of the Eucharist. We welcome you to this ministry and wish you many happy years of service.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions Saturday 5pm to 6pm

St. Brigid's Day – February 1st

St. Brigid's Day is on Tuesday and for many it heralds the beginning of the Irish spring and turning a back on winter. St.



Brigid is the secondary patron of Ireland. Her image is now on Our Lady's altar as we reflect on her simple life of faith and generosity. It is welcome news that the government has announced that the first Monday in February each year from

2023 will be a public holiday. Many people had lobbied for this great woman to continue to be acknowledged for the role she played as a pioneer in bringing the flame of faith to many parts of our country. There is a strong tradition of children and adults in our parish making St. Brigid's crosses on her feast day.

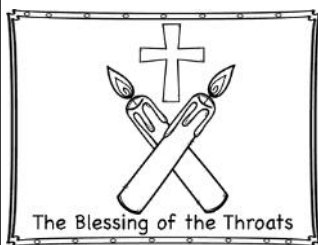
Candlemas Day – Wednesday

On February 2nd candles are blessed at mass as Christians celebrate 40 days since Christmas Day with the marking of the feast of Jesus' presentation in the temple.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards altar candles or have candles of their own they would like blessed please bring them to mass on this day. The parish is grateful to Ollie, aka 'the candle man' who as a volunteer looks after candles and shrines in Ashbourne church. The feast of Jesus' presentation is also a day of prayer for those in religious life. Pope Francis in his monthly intentions recognizes the 'harsh obedience' that some religious followed in the past. He says that this often negated an understanding of God's abundant mercy. The diocesan celebration of religious life in our diocese will be hosted by Bishop Tom on February 20th at 4pm in the cathedral, Mullingar. All religious (past or present) are welcome to the occasion.



Feast of St Blaise – Thursday



Thursday is the Feast of St Blaise and the 10am mass will finish with the blessing of throats. St. Blaise was an early bishop and martyr of the church and is venerated as the patron of those suffering from throat disease. His remains are in Dubrovnik in Croatia where throats are blessed every day of the year.

First Friday Mass and Calls to the Sick

Friday next is the First Friday in February. The 10am Mass will be offered for those enrolled on the Ashbourne-Donaghmore parish list of the dead. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán will do communion calls to those on the parish list on Friday of this week. If anyone is at home and cannot get to mass and wish to receive the sacrament they should contact the parish.

Refurbishment of the Old National School and the Presbytery

A planning application has been submitted to Meath County Council seeking the refurbishment of the presbytery on Ashbourne church grounds and works to the old national school allowing it to become a residence for the parish priest. The footprint of both buildings will largely stay the same with proposed works including an insulation and electrical upgrade to both buildings. The plans for the old national school will replace the previous plan submitted in 2019 which proposed to extend the building to become an education centre.



Opening Up with Less Restrictions

Thankfully our parish can continue its efforts to open-up and return to some normality. There is no longer a requirement to have distance measures in place. So nearly all churches you visit should have every seat open again. Choirs are allowed in parishes where they exist. Collections can take place by basket again. There are no restrictions on numbers at Sunday or weekday masses. Baptisms, funerals and weddings planned in parishes can now take place as they did in pre covid times. Details around the celebration of communion and confirmation will be drawn up shortly following government protocols around keeping young people safe during covid.

Positive Steps in Ashbourne

As some restrictions are relaxed it is important that we still know the importance of wearing masks in church and sanitizing our hands when going and coming from worship. The parish stewards have done trojan work in difficult circumstances and please God later in the year we will be able to thank them properly. The stewards will continue to welcome people to mass, to do the collection in the new way and they will help regulate the coming up for holy communion. Our church concert with 'The Three Tenors' can go ahead on February 25th and our parish will join in the national commemoration on March 20th to pray for those who died and suffered during the co-vid break.

Hoping That People Will Return

It is our hope and prayer that more people will return to the expressed practise of the faith in Ashbourne and Donaghmore as our country full reopens from the restrictions of co-vid. Many people, particularly young families, left attendance at mass to others so they could have safe space to attend. We want everyone to know that they are welcome and are missed. We would love to have you back and to get to know you as we endeavour to grow together in our Christian faith. Our parish community is about a real community of people growing in faith, hope and love. Online virtual masses helped during the pandemic in a limited way to connect spiritually but our parish cannot survive on an online forum. Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciaran look forward to the day when are masks can be removed and we can see one another properly and relate fully. Please God by Easter as we continue to open up and the co-vid data is on our side we may be able to have mass servers back in our church and be able to gather in the parish hall for tea after mass.

Second Collection at Masses Today

After holy communion today there is a collection to contribute towards the parish contribution to the diocesan cess of €9,000. The money collected across parishes in Meath supports the work of church welfare agencies including Accord Catholic Marriage care, prison chaplaincy, communications office, the National Safeguarding Board, and the Council for Immigrant and Emigrant Support. This is one of six second collections that take place annually in our parish. All those contributing are thanked for their support as are the stewards who help collect our parish offering. Mile buiochas.



Weekly collection figures from last weekend
Plate €1220.00
Shrines €1095.00
Development Fund €1265 00

Thank You

We thank all those who contribute, collect and count our finances.



We pray for those who have died recently

Including Vinny Clarke, Drogheda

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE