



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan Pastoral
Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcath,
Dunshaughlin and Skyrne*

15th Sunday A

12 July 2026



*Jesus said "Imagine a sower,
going out to sow. As he sowed,
some seeds fell on ...".*

Matthew 13: 3

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 11th July 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	7pm	Elsie Moran, Brookville (Month's Mind); Michael Kiernan
Sunday 12th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Séan and Peggy Barker
	11am	Siobhan Brennan, Brindley Park Square (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Karla Louth, Deerpark, (1st Anniversary)
Monday 13th	10am	Peggy Hollywood
Tuesday 14th <i>St. Camillus</i>	10am	Thomas Kelly
Wednesday 15th July <i>St. Bonaventure</i>	10am	Liturgy of The Word <i>If there is a funeral on this day it will replace the liturgical service</i>
Thursday 16th <i>Lady Mt. Carmel</i>	10am	Michael and Bridie Murphy
Friday 17th	10am	Denis Hurley
Saturday 18th 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	7pm	Melanie Grattan; Geraldine Ledwith; Tony Clarke and Deceased Members of the Clarke family; Elizabeth and John Dunne
Sunday 19th	9am	Hannah Kelly
Donaghmore	10am	Deceased Members of the Cassidy and Peel families
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Shane Hanley

What kind of soil are you?



In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and seed. He uses images that would have been familiar to people living in the fishing and agricultural economy of Galilee. Jesus says that God's word is scattered generously but heard differently. The question for us as followers of Jesus is how well do we respond to the word of God? How firmly does it take root in us? Are we people like the fourth group of hearers, who listen to the word of God, take it to heart, make it our own, and have it bear much fruit?

Liturgy of the Word on Wednesdays

There is rosary and a short 'Liturgy of the Word' at 10am on Wednesday morning next. This liturgy replaces the 'Celebration of the Eucharist'. We thank those who lead the rosary, and all the lay people who help with prayer ministry in Ashbourne/Donaghmore parish. On July 22nd, Mass will resume at 10am on a Wednesday morning.



New Gospel Stand in Ashbourne Church



Last year the gospel stand photographed was added to Ashbourne Church. This addition to our church furnishings helps keep the Word of God 'alive and active'. The book is left open for parishioners and visitors to read and reflect on the gospel of the previous Sunday. We encourage parishioners to use the book to bring the gospel to life. You will notice this book stand is located beside the 15th station of the Cross and is on the opposite side to the ambry with the holy oils.

Own and Read the Bible

Do you want to grow in your relationship with Jesus? One way to nourish and develop our love of Jesus is to make a decision to read the Bible regularly. If you haven't got a Bible, decide to buy one and use it to follow the readings at Mass. This year we are reading the gospel written by Matthew.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

Sacristans in Our Parish Churches Down the Years



As part of our focus on parish faith history we have been recording priests of the parish down the years. We have been gathering information on people from the parish who entered religious life. We have also

sought information on the inscriptions on some of our chalices and ciboria. We have had some success but there are always gaps in history, and more research to be done. This week we turn attention to those who have assisted in the sacristies of both our churches. We would like to draw up a list of our sacristans. At the moment, voluntary sacristans look after Masses in both our churches, but before this it was often done by one person. As priests and people we are very grateful for the assistance that sacristans give. Fr. Michael came to our parish during Covid and he remembers the trojan work of Shay Butler as sacristan up until his retirement in October 2021. Some in Ashbourne remember also Eddie O Donoghue who became sacristan in 1988. He was the first person to be buried in St. Declan's Cemetery, but was he the first sacristan? Does anyone know who were the other sacristans in Ashbourne since the Church was built in 1882? The jubilee 2000 faith history booklet records that Bridie Kearns of the Ninemilestone became sacristan in Donaghmore in 1982 at the setting up of the new parish. Does anyone know who replaced Bridie until Una Lynch took on this role? If you have any information, please let us know.

Understanding the Catholic Funeral Rite in Our Parish

As announced last week, during these months of summer we are publishing some details in our newsletters each week about how our parish operates so that you, our parishioners, know and understand parish guidelines. We continue this week with an explanation of catholic funerals in our parish. Our parish website has three sections to explain and support those organising a funeral in our parish. (1) *Funerals and Burials*. This explains the organisation of a funeral, the various rites, and our diocesan policy on exclusion of eulogies in a church building. The rites of committal are then outlined. When it comes to cremation the ceremony in the crematorium is not necessarily part of the catholic rite and does not end a Catholic funeral. Sometimes this is misunderstood. The burial of the mortal remains either in a coffin or urn of ashes forms the rite of Christian committal and the last part of the funeral. We pray for the deceased as their mortal remains are laid to rest. Just like in other parishes, our priests do the committals in our pastoral jurisdiction. If a priest is needed in a crematorium a local priest nearer to the venue attends or a suitable lay person leads the prayers. In Ashbourne we have a Columbarium in our church grounds to facilitate the interment of ashes. The Niches in the columbarium are not pre sold as sometimes peoples' situations change, and experience has shown this as we are left with empty spaces. (2) *Funeral Readings and Music*. In this section of the website families are given a choice of readings from the Old and New Testament to use as a first and second reading. Sacred music involves the singing of appropriate hymns at the funeral mass. (3) *Cemetery Care and Devotions* The third section of the website on ongoing respect for the dead is to do with the annual dates for the blessing of the graves in the six cemeteries within the parish. Two of these six cemeteries are the responsibility of the parish and registered under St. Finian's Diocesan Trust.



Mass For The Feast of St. Camillus

Tuesday next is the Feast of St. Camillus, patron of the sick. As part of the 10am daily Mass on Tuesday next in Ashbourne Church there will be an opportunity for parishioners to receive the Anointing and Blessing of the Sick.



"The poor and the sick are the heart of God. In serving them, we serve Jesus Christ."

- St. Camillus de Lellis
Catholic.org

Pope Leo Takes His Annual Holiday



As he did last year, Pope Leo XIV spends time this July on a summer holiday. He has left the heat of Rome to live in the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, around an hour away from the

Vatican. The statement from his press office says that as he rests all general and private audiences are suspended and will resume on Wednesday August 5. On the Sundays of July the Pope will celebrate Mass in the local parishes and the Angelus will be recited from Castel Gandolfo, rather than from St. Peters Square. Pope Leo, unlike his predecessor, Pope Francis, sees the value on taking holidays, playing sport and having a full day off each week.

Armagh Pilgrimage

"All of us are pilgrims on the earth and I have even heard it said that the earth itself is a pilgrim in the heavens." (Maxim Gorki) We have about half of the bus full for our parish pilgrimage to Armagh on Saturday August 22nd. The idea of a pilgrimage is to visit sacred sights to do with our faith so that we learn about aspects of our catholic faith and . Above all we go on (outer) pilgrim journey to reflect on the pilgrimage of life and to nurture the call of Jesus to convert our ways to Christ. If you are interested in joining this years pilgrimage , a donation of €25 secures a seat on the bus. For details check the posters on our parish noticeboards and for booking, contact the Parish Office.



Thank You for Your Generosity

The parish collection amounts for last week were as follows: Offertory/ Plate €1480; Shrines €850; Development Fund €770. If anyone would like at any time to check their contributions and donations to our parish please contact Sinead or Janice in the Parish Office. There are still a few parishioners who give to our parish regularly but we have no names to go alongside their 'parish giving'. Some people may like to give anonymously and that is perfectly good, but some people may not know we do not have their names to go alongside their generous contribution. If you want to check all is in order with your donations please let us know. Thank you for supporting our mission and helping us serve our community in faith and love. Remember that Your Kindness and Generosity are a true blessing to our parish. *Míle buíochas*.

Praying for Those Who Have Died

We pray for Amy Arkins of Ardcaith and Ashbourne whose funeral mass took place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday morning. Our parish extends sympathy to her family and friends. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

