



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

Fr. Jinse Jose, C.C.

Parish Secretary - Sinéad Carroll

Telephone: (01) 8353149

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday,
9am - 12.30pm

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

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

18th Sunday A

2 August 2026



Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish ... Those who ate numbered five thousand...
(Matthew 14: 21)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 1st August Shared Mass Intention	7pm	Damien Darling, Brindley Park Court, (1st Anniversary) Bridget and Christy Browne; Patrick O'Sullivan; Deceased Members of the Ward and Coffey Families
Sunday 2nd	9am	Padraic Mills, The Hawthorns, (1st Anniversary)
Donaghmore	10am	Phyllis Faherty
	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Mary O'Connell
Monday 3rd	10am	Mary Moynihan, Tudor Grove (1st Anniversary)
Tuesday 4th	10am 1.30pm	Frances and Richard Coghlan <i>Wedding Mass for Declan Rehill and Fiona Ní Churraoin</i>
Wednesday 5th	10am	Danny O'Connell, also remembering his daughter Siobhán
Thursday 6th	10am	Deceased members of St. Declan's Credit Union
Friday 7th	10am	Parish List of The Dead
Saturday 8th	7pm	Breda Cullen, Ashbourne (1st Anniversary) James and Joey Norris; Morgan Doyle
Sunday 9th	9am	Jack Walsh
Donaghmore	10am	Kitty, Christo and Ollie Kavanagh and Deceased Members of the Family
	11am	Mass for Fr Michael Plunkett, Late P.P of Ashbourne/Ratoath
	12.30pm	Vera Bates, California, (Month's Mind) Her husband Jay Bates (1st Anniversary)

The feeding of the five thousand reveals Jesus' compassion, power and the fulfilment of God's promises, inviting believers to trust in His provision and to participate in His work.

Fr. Michael Expresses Gratitude

Fr. Michael is very grateful to all those who organised and attended last Sunday's Mass of Thanksgiving, and the celebration afterwards in the Parish Centre. It was a most uplifting occasion.



Parish Office Summer Holidays

The Parish Office and Centre is now closed for its summer break. The office will re-open on Monday morning week (August 10). We thank Sinead for all her hard work at managing the busy office, and we thank Janice, Doris, Mary and Bernadette for the work that they do in creating an office environment that is both efficient and welcoming. We all hope you enjoy a few days of relaxation.



Dates For The Diary

Friday next is the First Friday in August. The 10am Mass will be offered for those on the Ashbourne - Donaghmore Parish List of the Dead. On Monday August 10th the Parish Office will reopen after its summer recess. August 15th is the Feast of the Assumption and it falls this year on a Saturday. The following Saturday, the Queenship of our Lady, our parish will go on pilgrimage to Armagh.



We wish all our parishioners a most enjoyable Bank Holiday Weekend.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

Parish Pilgrimage to Armagh Saturday 22nd August Cost €25 Spaces Still Available Book Through the Parish Office

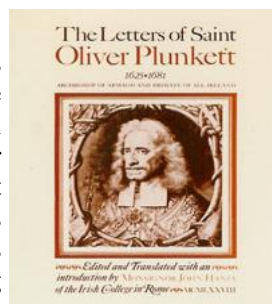


St. Patrick, the first Irish Catholic leader, established a church in Armagh in 445AD. Since then, this ancient city has been the ecclesiastical capital of the island of Ireland. St' Oliver Plunkett became

successor to the see of Armagh in 1669 and was executed twelve years later on July 1st 1681, because of his refusal to denounce his Christian faith. On Saturday August 22nd our parish will go on a pilgrimage to Drogheda and Armagh. In Drogheda the pilgrimage will visit and pray at the shrine of St. Oliver in St. Peter's Church before heading to Armagh to learn about St. Patrick, and the evolution of the Irish Church. Fr. Michael will give a brief tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Mass will be celebrated before the bus returns to Ashbourne. Enroute to the sites, and on the way home, there will be time for people to get food and beverage. 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. The Parish Pastoral Council have decided this year to visit Armagh as many people have never been to this city, and this pilgrimage helps us learn about St. Oliver Plunkett whose cousin is buried in Killeland Cemetery.

11am Mass Next Sunday is For Fr. Michael Plunkett

When Oliver Plunkett was Archbishop in Armagh he wrote letters to his cousin Fr. Michael Plunkett who was a priest and vicar general of our diocese. The last letter Oliver penned a few hours before his execution in London tells Fr. Michael that he had a forgiving heart and he held no bitterness against those who persecuted him for spreading the catholic faith. Fr. Michael died as Parish Priest of Ratoath and was buried in the ruins of the old abbey of Killeland, here in Ashbourne. It is thanks to Fr. Michael's archive of letters that we know the story of his cousin, the great St. Oliver Plunkett. Next August the Killeland grave will be 300 years old. Our 11am Mass next Sunday is offered in thanksgiving for the life and example of St. Oliver Plunkett and his cousin Fr. Michael.



Meath Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

This year's diocesan pilgrimage to Knock will take place next Sunday. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Tom Deenihan and accompanied by the Meath Diocesan Choir. People

from parishes across the diocese are encouraged to make an annual pilgrimage to our Marian and Eucharistic Shrine. 2026 marks fifty years since the opening of Knock Basilica by the late Monsignor James Horan. The following schedule applies in Knock every weekend over the summer
2pm Rosary/ 2.30pm Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica/ 3pm Mass followed by Benediction and Rosary Procession.

A Small Piece on the History of Choirs in Our Parish



The visit of Pope St John Paul II to Ireland in 1979 was the impetus for the firm establishment of a choir from Ashbourne to join other choirs to welcome the Pope to Drogheda.

This choir was founded by Liam Hanley to sing for the Pope, but above all to lead the liturgical music at the 11am Mass in Ashbourne Church. Ephrem and Giovanna Feeley succeeded Liam as directors of the Church Choir in 2002, and for the last 24 years the choirs, under their guidance, have been enriching our Parish celebrations. A Folk Group was established in the early 1980's. At first it comprised of teachers from the local primary schools. The folk group sang and played at the 12.30pm Mass until the members decided to retire during covid. Some parishioners also remember fondly the years when there was a Youth Choir in Ashbourne Church under the guidance of Eimear Scully. In Fr. Michael's tenure as parish priest volunteers attending the vigil mass, the 12.30pm and the daily mass lead the congregation in singing well known hymns. In Donaghmore a choir of local parishioners come together to sing in the Church of St. Patrick once a month on a Sunday morning, and at major liturgical feasts.

Guidelines Around Bringing Communion to the Sick

Fr. Jinse will bring Holy Communion this week to those on the First Friday List. If anyone is sick and confined to their home, and would like to be included for this visitation, or would like a priest to visit them at any time, please contact the Parish Office by



Telephone 01 8353149 and we will do our best to provide the spiritual care needed, including the Sacraments of Confessions, Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick. At any given time about twenty six parishioners avail of the opportunity for a priest to call on the first Friday with the Blessed Sacrament. In addition to the call by a priest, our Eucharistic Ministers bring Holy communion to the Sick and we thank them for this ministry. Please be advised that our priests and Eucharistic Ministers are not authorised to give the Blessed Sacrament in an open pyx to someone who presents at Communion Time at Mass. Anytime the Blessed Sacrament is being taken out of the church consent must be given by a priest and it must be written up in the Sacristy Register. This is a diocesan requirement to safeguard against abuse of the Sacrament, and ensure good protocols around respect and reverence for the Eucharist.

Supporting and Sustaining The Parish

We are in the final days of the restoration work on the porch of Ashbourne Church. We hope parishioners like the brighter and more welcoming entrance and exit. The parish collection amounts for last week were as follows: Offertory/ Plate €1560 Shrines €865; Development Fund €960. Gratitude is expressed to all those who generously give to our parish, and the building of our Lord's kingdom. *Mile buíochas.*

Suaímhneas Sioraí

We pray for Susan Mullen, Castle Close whose Funeral took place on Thursday in Ashbourne Church. Our parish extends sympathy to her family and friends at this time. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her.

