



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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

19th Sunday A

9 August 2026



**Jesus called out 'Courage!
It is I! Do not be
afraid.'** (Matthew 14: 29)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 8th August Shared Mass Intention	7pm	Breda Cullen, Ashbourne, (1st Anniversary) James and Joey Norris; Morgan Doyle
Sunday 9th August	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) + husband Jay (1st Anniversary)
Monday 10th	10am	People of The Parish
Tuesday 11th	10am	Danny O'Connell and daughter Siobhan
Wednesday 12th	10am	People of The Parish
Thursday 13th	10am	Patrick Ryan
Friday 14th <i>Maximilian Kolbe</i>	10am 7pm	Patrick and Bridie Garavan; Willie and Eileen O'Brien Vigil on Eve of Solemnity of Mary
Saturday 15th Shared Mass Intention	10am 7pm	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Amy Arkins Connolly, Ardcah (Month's Mind) Walter Mulvey; Betty and Billy Coughlan; Declan Brennan; Bernard and Kathleen Carragher
Sunday 16th	9am	Lisa Doherty
Donaghmore	10am	Ann Somers
	11am	Catherine Finnigan, Broadmeadow Green, (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Peggy Swinburne

Today we hear a story about Jesus coming to the aid of the disciples' when they are caught in a storm. As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of any storm in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face that storm. To have courage, To trust, To be not afraid. Think of the challenges and difficulties you and your loved ones are facing at this time. Ask the Lord's help in facing them.

Saturday is the Solemnity of the Assumption *A Holyday of Obligation*



Ashbourne Church

Vigil Mass, Friday evening, 14th August, 7pm

Mass of the Feast, Saturday, 15th August, 10am

This Solemnity commemorates the passing of our Blessed Mother's body and soul into the glory of Heaven, emphasizing Mary's role in salvation history. The Assumption of Our Lady is one of four dogmas that form Marian Catholic theology. The Children's Sacred Space in Ashbourne church now has information on our Lady for the month of August.

Fr. Ignatius is Back With Us

When Fr. Ignatius was leaving us last October we issued an invitation to him to return if his diary allowed. We are glad to have him with us for the next few weeks. Fr. Ignatius you are most welcome and we hope that you find contentment once again ministering to us and among us. *Bentornato!*



Prayers For Those Travelling During Summer



Lord, watch over all who travel this summer, keep them safe, guide their journeys, and bring them home in peace. May they find rest, joy, and the reassurance of Your loving presence wherever they go. Amen.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

11am Mass Today is For Fr. Michael Plunkett

The Letters of Saint
Oliver Plunkett



When Oliver Plunkett was Archbishop of Armagh (1669-1681) he wrote many 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 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 Killelland, 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. Our 11am Mass today is offered for the repose of Fr. Michael's soul. Next August it will be the 300th anniversary of his death.

Parish Pilgrimage to Drogheda, Faughart + Armagh Saturday Week, 22nd August Cost €25

6 Spaces Still Available Book Through the Parish Office

In Drogheda our parish 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. Our parish priest, 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 year's pilgrimage a donation of €25 secures a seat on the bus. 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 Killelland Cemetery.



Lough Derg Island 2026



Lough Derg pilgrimage season is in full swing. 3 day pilgrimages in the tradition of prayer, fasting and keeping vigil continue for another few days. One day retreats and guided days of prayer and reflection are about to begin.

New for this season is the opportunity to book overnight accommodation on Station Island before beginning a retreat or one day pilgrimage. For full information or booking look up www.loughderg.org or email info@loughderg.org.

Ashbourne Parish After School Sacramental Program

The Parish After School Sacramental Program will begin next month. All Catholic parents with children attending non Catholic Schools must be registered on this program if they wish their child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation in the coming years. Registration Forms are available from our priests after Sunday Mass. If you are not registered please come to Sunday Mass with your child and introduce them to us. Once the form is complete it should be returned to the Parish Office. Classes for 1st Communion and Confirmation are held over two years. During the first year of Holy Communion preparation the children receive the sacrament of Confession.



Wedding Bells

We congratulate and wish God's blessing on Fiona Ní Churraoin and Declan Rehill of Archerstown Demesne who got married on Tuesday afternoon last in Ashbourne Church. We wish the young couple all the very best in this new chapter in their lives.



History of Lay Missionaries in Our Parish

For a number of years in the 1990's and at the start of this millennium there were lay missionaries in our parish. The first lay missionaries came through the Columban's in Dalgan Park and lived in Johnswood. They were Save Momo from Fiji, and Gracia Kibad from the Philippines. Fr. Jim Lynch, Ashbourne's second parish priest, introduced them to the parish. Their role was to evangelise and to remind people of the international dimension of the catholic faith. Does anyone know were there any other lay missionaries who lived or worked in our parish? Can anyone share information on where the missionaries are now?



Parish Office Re-opens Tomorrow Morning

The Parish Office and Parish Pastoral Centre re-open tomorrow morning at 9am. In the Parish Office parishioners organise masses for a loved one who is sick or deceased. Parishioners meet with our priests and attend parish meetings. The Parish Pastoral Centre is the hub of all pastoral activity, including the provision of after school education for children, and all the growing in faith initiatives our parish organises including the RCIA. The bathrooms in the Parish Pastoral Centre are opened whenever there is a ceremony in our church and are for use by parishioners. We thank the parish staff and volunteers who help our priests with the running of the Parish Pastoral Centre and Office. The office is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 12.30pm. All are most welcome.



2nd Collection Next Weekend



Next weekend is an Offering Day in our parish to support the priests who minister to our faith community. There will be a collection at Offertory Time and after Holy Communion. Last Sunday's collection total amounts were as follows: Offertory Basket: €1290; Envelope/Parish Development Fund: €940; Shrines: €965. On behalf of the Parish Finance Committee we thank you to all those who give generously in support of our priests, people and parish. *Mile buíochas.*

Assumption Prayer of Pope Pius XII

'O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of humanity, we believe with all the fervour of our faith in your triumphal Assumption, both body and soul, into heaven, where you are acclaimed as Queen by all the choirs of angels and all the legions of the saints. And we unite with them to praise and bless the Lord who has exalted you above all other pure creatures, and to offer you the tribute of our devotion and our love'. *Pope Pius XII (1876-1958)*

