



# 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

Email: ashbournedonaghmoreparish@gmail.com

Website: ashbourneparish.ie

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

## 1st Sunday Advent A

30 November 2025



### Mass Intentions in Ashbourne and Donaghmore

Saturday 29th November	7pm	Joseph McKane; Paud and Aily O'Regan; Joe and Maureen McCormack; John and Etty Kelly; Les and Jane Groome; Kathleen Johnson; Patrick Hopkins; Adam Hopkins; Deceased members of Tate and Hopkins Families
<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>		
Sunday 30th	9am	Harry, Alice, Anthony and John Ellis
Donaghmore	10am	Vera and Wally Browne
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Sally and Noel Williams, Ratoath, with the Interment of their Ashes after Mass
	12.30pm	Brian Brady
Monday 1st December	10am	Pauline and Michael Larkin
Tuesday 2nd	10am	Elizabeth and John Redmond
Wednesday 3rd <b>St Francis Xavier</b>	10am	Esther and Joseph Larkin
Thursday 4th	10am	Teresa Flattery
Friday 5th	10am	Parish List of the Dead
Saturday 6th	7pm	Eileen Flannery, Dublin Road, (1st Anniversary) Kathleen Tubbritt; Paddy, Julia and Mary Brady; Gráinne Redmond; Peggy and Pat O'Connell; Eileen and Michael Breslin; Margaret and Michael Daly; George Wilton
<b>Feast of St. Nicholas</b>		
<i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>		
Sunday 7th	9am	Chris and Mick Beary
Donaghmore	10am	Mary Teresa and Berty Clarke and deceased family members
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Aoife Oates and daughter Ailbhe <i>Rite of Election for this years three RCIA Candidates</i>
	12.30pm	Margaret and Joseph Kelly

### Celebrating Advent 2025

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the first day of the New Church Year. The word 'Advent', from the Latin *adventus*, means getting ready for the coming of Jesus. Our churches and schools have Advent wreaths to help us reflect on the meaning of our Saviour's birth. We bless these wreaths today. The first purple candle lit on our wreath represents Hope and the word 'Hope' is placed on our Advent Tree. Our hope in Jesus helps us face our fears as we journey through life. Because of Jesus we always have hope. Think of what hope means to you this first week of Advent.



### Blessing of the Advent Wreath



Lord God, your church joyfully awaits the coming of its Saviour, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of our Advent wreath; may their light reflect the splendour of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

### Pope Leo Visits Turkey and Lebanon

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, the first ecumenical council of the church, and a gathering which gave us the Nicene Creed, which is recited and professed at Mass each Sunday. At this time Pope Leo is making his first foreign trip as Pontiff visiting Turkey and the Lebanon. In Turkey on Friday he prayed at the place where the creed was formulated. One of those who attended the meeting to write the Creed was St. Nicholas of Myra in Turkey. St. Nicholas' is the real Santa Claus and his feast is celebrated this Saturday.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Thursdays 10.30am—8pm



Confessions Saturday 5 to 6pm—Ashbourne Church

## Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Southern France

Fr. Michael will lead a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Southern France from Wednesday May 27th to June 3rd 2026. The itinerary will take in the two main Marian Shrines in France, namely Lourdes and La Salette. The pilgrimage will also take in the Papal Basilica of Avignon, the tomb of the great Dominican Saint St. Thomas Aquinas and Rocamadour. The seven day pilgrimage costs €1395 and is being organised by JWT, and full details are on the website or by phoning (01) 2410800. This will be Fr. Michael's first time to visit Lourdes and he hopes that some parishioners will be able to join him.



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes place on Monday week. The 8th of December is a Holy Day of Obligation and is the feast day of Ashbourne Church. Masses for the Feast are at 10am and 7pm. After the 7pm Mass the outdoor crib and Christmas lights in the

Church grounds will be turned on. Thank you to all those who are currently helping to clean and decorate our churches for the liturgical season of Advent. We rely on volunteers and are most grateful to those who help prepare our churches in Ashbourne and Donaghmore.

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

## Preparing Our Children for the Sacraments



On Tuesday morning next at 10.45am the monthly catechism class in the church for first communion children takes place. We ask parents to be attentive to their commitment to pray together, as a family in their home and parish church. The second 'Confirming our Children' Mass is next Sunday.

## Primary and Post Primary School Survey

The Department of Education is currently asking parents and guardians of children to complete a survey on their local school. The online survey asks questions pertaining to parental preferences regarding patronage, language and co-ed / single sex education. The survey can be found at [www.gov.ie/schoolsurvey](http://www.gov.ie/schoolsurvey) and ends on December 16th. If you are happy with the school system or seek change do have your say by filling in the questions asked.



## First Friday and Monthly Communion Calls

Friday next is the First Friday in December. Our priests will offer their Masses that day for all of those enrolled on the new Parish List of the Dead. They will bring the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday to the sick and infirm who have requested the sacrament. Anyone housebound who would like the sacrament brought to them in the run up to Christmas should let us know.



## St. Nicholas and Greenogue

The feast of St. Nicholas is on Saturday and has been celebrated by Christians on this date since the fifth century. St. Nicholas was a bishop in Turkey who was kind to poor people and helped them give gifts to children at Christmas. He dropped bags of money down the chimneys of people in need, and is the patron saint of children. The old church in Greenogue is called after this great man. No one knows why the ancient monastery in Greenogue has this name.



## To Help You Pray During Advent

An Advent Online Calendar is produced by the Irish bishops. Behind each virtual door of the calendar there is content aimed at assisting prayer and reflection on how to keep Christ at the centre of our preparations for Christmas. The calendar is available at [www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar).



## New Children's Choir

Young people from second class upwards are invited to a 'Come and See' song session in the Parish Centre today from 12.15 to 1pm. In a child friendly environment children will enjoy refreshments together and learn a new liturgical hymn. The organisers are hoping the group will sing at the 5pm Christmas Mass. Ashbourne's Choral Ensemble would like to thank everyone who turned out to support their concert, 'Always Something Sings' last Saturday on the Feast of Saint Cecilia to celebrate the joy of music making. The concert raised €2,200 for UNICEF.



## Meetings for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

This Monday evening there is a meeting for Eucharistic Ministers in the Parish Centre at 7pm. This will be followed by a meeting for all Readers at 7.45pm. Thank you to each parishioner who volunteers in one of these ministries in our parish. We encourage people to make an effort to attend these meetings so that we are renewed in our ministry and all working together in serving the Lord. If you cannot attend please let the Parish Office know so that we can pass on to you any information from the meeting.



## Finance Meeting on Tuesday Week

There is a parish finance committee meeting in the Parish Centre at 5pm on Tuesday evening, December 9th. The church collection amounts for last week were as follows: Offertory Plate €1755; Shrines €955; Envelope/Development Fund €870. Gratitude is expressed to all those who contribute, collect and count monies given to our parish. Christmas Mass Bouquets are now on sale in the Parish Office.



## Donaghmore Church Meeting

A meeting for church volunteers in Donaghmore will take place on Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Church Sacristy. Our priests meet with local people to plan Church Masses and liturgies and to see how, together, we can build the local faith community. We thank everyone who attends these meetings and help in any way with church related matters in Donaghmore. Those who gather this week will help with the planning of our Advent and Christmas Masses in the church.



## St. Vincent de Paul Annual Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is taking place at this time. Envelopes are available in our churches and have been sent to homes in Ashbourne. The parish is happy to facilitate the distribution and taking up of these envelopes. Envelopes can be dropped in to the Parish Office or left in the large Deposit Box in Ashbourne Church.



## Praying for the Faithful Departed

We pray for Mick Russell of Bourne Avenue whose funeral Mass took place on Saturday last. Michael was a volunteer sacristan at the 12.30pm Mass and is remembered fondly. We pray also for Aoife Oates of Boardsmill, a Spanish Teacher in Ashbourne Community School who sadly died on Tuesday. We extend sympathy to their grieving families. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

