



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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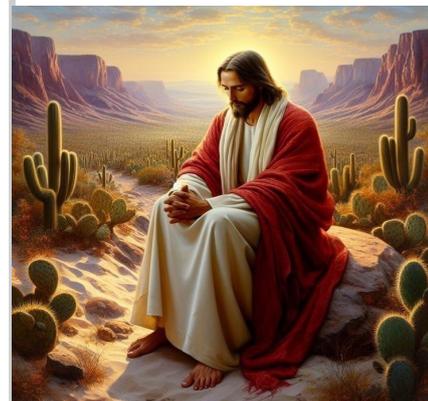
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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan
Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcaith,
Dunshaughlin and Skyrne*

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1st Sunday Lent A

22 February 2026



‘Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the Wilderness to be tempted by the devil.’

(Matt 4:1)

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 21st February	7pm	Rita Stewart, Bachelors Walk, (Month's Mind) Michéal Battersby; George Wilton; Harry Cullen; Mary Fanning; Peg Hardy; Patrick Gorman
Anniversaries Occurring Mass		
Sunday 22nd February	9am	Mass of Thanksgiving for the Foundation of Ashbourne Church
Donaghmore	10am	Des Cronnelly, Baltrasna, (1st Anniversary) his wife Julie; Niamh Carson; Archie Docherty; Aubrey Weir
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Charles Bobbett, Fleenstown (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Veronica Walker, Castle Park (Month's Mind)
Monday 23rd	10am	Jack and Eileen Scally
Tuesday 24th	10am	Gerry and Sheila Ryan
Wednesday 25th	10am	Theresa Lawless
Thursday 26th	10am	Anne Fitzpatrick
Friday 27th	10am	Anne Garnett
Saturday 28th Anniversaries Occurring Mass	7pm	Con and Michael Moynihan; Stephen Taylor
Sunday 1st March	9am	Charlie Fitzsimons
Donaghmore	10am	Teresa Moran
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Terry Brennan

Confirmation on Saturday



Bishop Tom Deenihan will confirm 186 children from our Parish on Saturday in two ceremonies, in Ashbourne Church, at 11am and 2pm. Parents and children are asked to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Tom as he makes his annual parish visitation. We ask those attending to

keep the ceremony prayerful and meaningful. Space is limited in our church and each child is accompanied by a sponsor and three others. Fr Michael and Fr. Jinse express thanks to all those helping them to organise these ceremonies. At this time, all of us who believe, are asked to be especially conscious of the role of the Holy Spirit and the call of God to live Spirit filled lives.

‘Confirming Our Children’ Mass

We welcome the ‘confirmandi’ to Mass today for their fourth and final preparatory Mass. We encourage the children and their families to pray this Mass for themselves and each other. For this Mass the children have learnt about the seven Gifts and the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The children bring with them a card that they will present to their sponsor, thanking them for their presence in their lives. The Confirmation badges, chain and crosses, Holy Spirit pins and medals that the children will wear on Saturday are blessed at Masses today. Confessions for the children and their families will take place on Thursday evening in Ashbourne Church from 7 to 8.30pm. We look forward to this parish celebration of the fire of God’s love. We hope that the children and their families will have a lovely day on Saturday. We wish them well and pray that they know the joy and strength of the Spirit always.



Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in us in the fire of your love.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

What are you doing for

Lent?



Pray



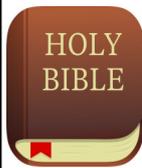
Fast



Give

The Lenten billboards are displayed to remind people passing our Church of the Lenten season. Our churches have a Lenten desert scene to encourage parishioners to enter into the journey and awakening of Lent. Purple is the traditional colour of Lent and our priests wear purple vestments at liturgies over the next 40 days. Purple represents the call to renew our lives spiritually, and to reflect on what it is that Christ achieved for us through his passion and death. During this season the Alleluia and Gloria are no longer said or sung at Mass, and flowers on the sanctuary are kept at a minimum. This is all part of us 'stripping ourselves' back to the essentials and 'entering the desert' of Lent.

Reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Lent



Each Tuesday evening at 7pm Fr. Michael will lead reflection on the Sunday Gospel in the Ladychapel of Ashbourne Church. If you are interested in learning more about the sacred scriptures, or getting more out of your participation at Sunday Mass, do come along.

Support Trocaire in Your Almsgiving

Trocaire Boxes are available this Sunday in our churches. Have you read this year's literature? The 2026 Lenten almsgiving campaign seeks to provide aid to the people in need in Rwanda. In the name of the Irish Church, Trocaire provides charitable relief effort in the developing world. This year they aim to repair storm damage in this central African country, provide water tanks and support women in diversification of their income.



'Sycamore' Pathways This Lent

Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It was devised by an English priest as a tool for Catholics to come together and share aspects of their faith. It has become a space to meet other people, explore beliefs, and share ideas on contemporary issues that really matter. One of our Parish Pastoral Council members, Zara, will be hosting four Sycamore sessions over the month of March. It will be hosted in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays from 7pm to 8:15pm starting the 4th of March. Refreshments will also be provided. During this Lent, come enter a space where you can reflect on Christ, hear each other's stories and reflect on your own.



Hospitality after the Sunday 11am Mass

During Lent, our Sunday Hospitality continues in the Parish Centre after the 11am Mass. As always, all are welcome. For the season however we hold back on the 'goodies' and raise awareness of cutting back to give to Trocaire and the people they work for.

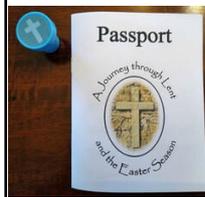


Parish Lenten Prayer

During our Lenten journey, may we focus on Prayer ... as love for God,
Fasting ... as love for ourselves and
Almsgiving ... as love for others.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.



Children's Passports - My Lenten Journey



Children preparing for 1st Confession and Holy Communion are invited to pick up a Passport as they come to Mass today. Each week the children will be able to collect 'passport stamp stickers'. An Easter gift will be given to all those children who complete their passport and return it to Mass on Easter

Sunday. Best Wishes to all the children taking on this prayer challenge and the Parish Pastoral Council thank the parents for supporting their children in their faith development.

Pastoral Area Meeting of Pastoral Council Members

On Wednesday evening next, the priests, chairperson and members of our Parish Pastoral Council in Ashbourne will meet in Dunshaughlin with fellow pastoral council members of the other parishes in the newly formed Pastoral Area of Ratoath. This is part of increased co-operation and collaboration between parishes and the sharing of resources and talent pool of lay volunteers and priests where possible.



Marking the Foundation of the New Church



This Sunday, the date of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, we pray in thanksgiving for the building of Ashbourne Church. On the 22nd of February 1981, the foundation stone of Ashbourne Church extension was laid by the late Bishop John McCormack. Our 9am Mass

this Sunday morning is offered in thanksgiving for all our deceased parishioners and benefactors. We thank everyone who helps us look after this important building in the centre of our town. Did you know that a diocesan historian, recorded that a copy of the portrait of the Immaculate Conception painted by Francis Walker once hung in the old church where the Parish Centre is today. This portrait helped the priest of the day make the decision to dedicate our Church to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Accounts Handed Over

Fr. Michael handed over the accounts of our parish to the accountant last week. All of the 2025 receipts and lodgements of our parish were given in electronic and paper format. These are now processed and the official 'Income and Expenditure Sheet' will be presented to the parish in April once the accountancy firm has their work done. Our parish accounts makes up one 69th of the audited accounts of the charity that we belong to called 'St. Finian's Diocesan Trust'. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1610; Priest's Offertory (2nd Collection) €2470; Shrine €1030; Development Fund €1060. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Míle buíochas.



Cemetery Devotion Dates and Times 2026



Mass for those interred both in Ashbourne Church Cemetery and Killeglend Cemetery will take place in Ashbourne Church on Saturday May 30th at 7pm. The blessing of the graves will take place immediately afterwards at 7.45pm. The graves in Killeglend Cemetery will be blessed at 8.15pm that same evening.

On the following Saturday evening of June 6th, the 7pm Vigil Mass will be offered for those interred in St. Declan's Cemetery, with blessing of the graves afterwards at 8.15pm. The graves in Donaghmore will be blessed at 10.45am following the Sunday morning Mass of May 31st in Donaghmore church. Devotions in Greenogue will follow at 11.30am that same Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend.