



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Michael Kilmartin P.P.

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

23rd Sunday A

6th September 2026

**FOR WHERE TWO OR
THREE ARE GATHERED
TOGETHER IN MY
NAME, THERE AM I IN
THE MIDST OF THEM.
MATTHEW 18:20**

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 5th September	7pm	Elizabeth, Eddie and John Bradley; Lily Ronan; Paul Kelly; Hugh and Bridie Bannon; Holy Souls; Deceased Members of the Boylan and Garvey Families; Sr Merlyn Galway and her mother Catherine; Paul Meleady and Walter Meleady Snr; James and Mary Rogers
Shared Mass Intention		
Sunday 6th September	9am	Ciara Nicol and Deceased Family Members
Donaghmore	10am	Pat Moran
	11am	Anna Kleibauer, Brindley Park, (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Patrick Fitzsimons, Racehill (1st Anniversary)
Monday 7th	10am	Peadar and Nuala Mercier
Tuesday 8th <i>Nativity of the BVM</i>	10am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 9th	10am	Bill Bermingham
Thursday 10th	10am	People of the Parish
Friday 11th	10am	Michael and Margaret Whelan
Saturday 12th	7pm	Sarah Doherty; Pearse Ward; Anne McElligott; Jimmy O'Donnell
Shared Mass Intention		
Sunday 13th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality Returns in the Parish Centre	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Mary Moss

There are three short sections in today's gospel. It begins with an instruction on how to deal with disagreements within the community. Two sayings follow. The first is about the binding force of decisions made by the community. The second is about community prayer. If even two people pray for the same thing, Jesus assures he will be with them.

Congratulations to Fr. Derek

Ashbourne's third parish priest, Fr. Derek Darby is 25 years a priest. He celebrates Mass on the occasion of his silver jubilee in his native parish of Ratoath today. We congratulate Derek and wish him many more happy years of ministry as a priest of our diocese. Derek was a priest in Ashbourne - Donaghmore Parish for 12 years from 2007- 2019, serving first as a curate for 6 years before succeeding Fr. Jim Lynch as parish priest.



Ashbourne Church Choir Gets into Gear

Do you love to sing? Ashbourne Church Choir will shortly resume singing at the 11am Sunday Mass. The choir sing at alternative Sunday Masses, and sing at the main liturgical ceremonies at Christmas and Easter. A choir is never full and are always looking for new members. As they begin a new year we thank each and every member for their commitment to their local church, and for the role they play in enhancing our Sunday liturgy. If you are interested in joining Ashbourne Choral Ensemble, and knowing about the choir, you are welcome to speak to Giovanna or Ephrem after Mass today or any Sunday. Choir Rehearsals are on Monday evenings and start tomorrow evening.

*'Sacred Music is to glorify God and sanctify the faithful. It expresses the affective dimension of prayer'.
(Pope Leo XIV, 19 August 2026)*



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

Ashbourne Parish Pastoral Council



Ashbourne Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Members gathered at this first meeting of the new term will look at ways they can continue to contribute to the ongoing development of pastoral initiatives in Ashbourne-Donaghmore parish. The meeting will also prepare for the gathering of pastoral council members, from local parishes, in Ashbourne Parish centre on Wednesday evening, September 23rd. We thank all those who volunteer on the PPC and help our priests with decision making, planning and pastoral care.

After School Sacramental Program 2026-2027



Classes Begin in the Parish Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday September 22nd and 23rd
Classes @ 3.30pm and 4.30pm

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Meath diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes begins on Tuesday with Bishop Tom as spiritual leader. We pray especially for the sick, and those going on pilgrimage to this great Marian shrine.



Hospitality Resumes Next Sunday

There is a cup of tea for all parishioners in the Parish Centre after the 11am Mass next Sunday morning. We thank Aine and her team of volunteers who help to make this happen.



Solar Farm near Donaghmore Church

On behalf of Donaghmore Parish Council and parishioners of Ashbourne-Donaghmore parish, Fr. Michael wrote a letter in response to the recent advertisements of the opening of a fund to benefit the community around the Bullstown Solar Farm. Fr. Michael highlighted two issues that often come before Donaghmore Parish Council but are outside of the catholic parish remit. Concern has long been raised about safety in the vicinity of Donaghmore church, and perhaps this fund might, in the years to come, bring about improvements to road safety near the church. The second issue Fr. Michael highlighted on behalf of parishioners is the need for the old cemetery in Donaghmore to receive the care it deserves. The old graveyard at St. Patrick's Church, Donaghmore, was vested in Meath County Council in 1878 under the 'Irish Church Act' of 1869. While the parish, as part of an agreement between the local authority and St. Finian's Diocesan Trust going back to the 1970's, looks after the new cemetery adjacent to the church on church owned land, the parish has no role to play in the old cemetery. Many people mistakenly contact the parish office asking us about plots in the old cemetery, to cut grass, ivy and to paint the gate but this is not our responsibility. Many other communities form a group and work with the local authority to preserve the heritage of ancient cemeteries. This funding may provide an opportunity for these issues to be advanced in the right way.



Altar Server Recruitment

Altar Servers



At the moment Ashbourne parish is recruiting new Altar Servers. Have you received the sacrament of First Holy Communion and would like to serve Sunday Mass in either of our Parish Churches? So, if you and your parents are happy to give consent, please ask one of our priests for an Altar Server Registration Form. Fr. Jinse will be organising training for new servers during the week of Monday September 14th. We thank parents bringing their children to Mass and doing their best to pass on the precious gift of faith.

Mass for the Sick Through the Intercession of Padre Pio

The bi-monthly Mass for the Sick in our parish will take place on Thursday, September 17th. Mass that day at 10am will include the Sacrament of the Holy Anointing of the Sick. The glove of Padre Pio, a first class relic of this Italian saint, will be at this parish Mass and available for people to be blessed with. Many people through the years, especially in illness, have invoked Padre Pio intercession.



Padre Pio advises: "Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." Knowing perfectly well that our prayer leads us directly to God, he adds: "prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips but with your heart. In fact, on certain occasions, you only speak to Him with your heart."

The Charity of St. Vincent De Paul



Today is the anniversary of St Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent was an outstanding saint of the church who worked night and day to help those who were poor. In his name local parishes support the work of the global St. Vincent de Paul movement. Our new Church saint, Pier Giorgio Frassati worked tirelessly for his local St. Vincent de Paul conference to ensure the poor and suffering got help. The St. Vincent De Paul Society work to alleviate poverty, and campaign for social justice among all peoples. Through fundraising and running charity shops they do their work. We are very grateful for all the SVP volunteers in Ashbourne and throughout our country. The St. Vincent de Paul helpline is 1800677777 and their website is www.svp.ie

Contributing To Your Parish

On behalf of the Parish Finance Committee we thank all those who give generously in support of our priests, people and parish. Last Sunday's collection total amounts were as follows: Offertory Plate: €1495; Envelope/Parish Development Fund: €990; Shrines: €930. *Mile buíochas.*



Suaimhneas Sioraí

We pray for Mary Ryan, Robertstown whose Funeral Mass took place on Saturday in Donaghmore 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. Amen.

