



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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

24th Sunday A

13th September 2026

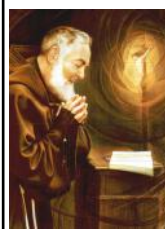
**FORGIVE 70
X7
TIMES**
MATTHEW 18:22

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 12th September Shared Mass Intention	7pm	Sarah Doherty; Pearse Ward; Anne McElligott; Jimmy O'Donnell
Sunday 13th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	People of the Parish
Hospitality in the Parish Centre	11am	Etelika Palacsik
	12.30pm	Mary Moss
Monday 14th <i>Exaltation of the Cross</i>	10am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 15th <i>Lady of Sorrows</i>	10am	Thomas Ryan
Wednesday 16th <i>Cornelius</i>	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 17th	10am	Mass is Offered for those who are Ill with Anointing of the Sick
Friday 18th	10am	Jose Abutin
Saturday 19th Shared Mass Intention	7pm	Thomas Hardy; Kathleen and Jim Flanagan and deceased members of the Brennan and Flanagan Families
Sunday 20th	9am	Leo Kelly
Donaghmore	10am	Joan Lucid, Greenogue (1st Anniversary)
Hospitality in the Parish Centre	11am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Donal Mullen

In today's gospel Jesus teaches that forgiveness must be unlimited, because God's mercy towards us is immeasurably great. The parable of the unforgiving servant says that those who receive God's mercy must extend mercy to others.

Mass for the Sick on Thursday



The 10am Mass on Thursday morning next 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 St.

Pio's intercession. His feast day occurs on 23rd September. It is 58 years on that day since his death.

"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."

Hospitality After Today's 11am Mass

There is a cup of tea for all parishioners in the Parish Centre after the 11am Mass this Sunday morning. We thank Aine and her team of volunteers who help to make this happen. If you have been there many times, or indeed this is your first time to drop by, you are most welcome. It is one of the ways that we build community and welcome new people to our parish. It is a relaxed atmosphere also for meeting the priests of your parish.



Recalling Ashbourne Parishes Past

On Sunday October 4th at 3.30pm there will be a gathering of older parishioners in Ashbourne Parish Centre. The hope is that people who grew up in the parish in the 1940's, 1950's, 1960's and 1970's would come together to share and reflect on some of the history of Ashbourne Church and Parish.



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



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

The Irish Synodal Pathway – The Journey So Far



The Irish church is preparing for a National Synodal Assembly in a month's time, on Saturday 17th October. Last autumn, delegates from every Irish diocese met in Kilkenny to propose specific national priorities based on feedback from a local consultation process, in sharing perspectives about what was working and what was broken in the Irish Church. The local conversations became diocesan reports, and helped shape input. From these voices, seven priorities emerged. They are belonging, healing, shared responsibility, family, faith formation, the role of women and young people. These issues be discussed at the Synod next month in the North Hotel. Read more: [www. Synod.ie](http://www.Synod.ie).

Bishop's Confirmation Video and Letter

Bishop Tom's video for confirmation families was uploaded onto the diocesan website last Monday. In the video Bishop Tom talks to families, and invites them to engage in preparing well for the sacrament. He quotes from Pope Leo's recent talk to confirmation children in Genoa in Italy. Bishop Tom outlines what is asked of families and of candidates preparing to receive the Holy Spirit. Bishop Tom will visit Ashbourne to confer the sacrament on Saturday February 27th and registration for the sacrament in our parish will begin in the coming weeks.



Meeting of Priests of the Pastoral Area

On Tuesday next Ashbourne Parish will host a meeting of the priests of parishes in the local pastoral area. The pastoral area was formed last year and is made up of the parishes of Ratoath, Curraha, Dunshaughlin, Skyrne, Ardcath and ourselves, Ashbourne. Our Pastoral Area is called St. Seachnall's Pastoral Area and Fr. Sean Henry is facilitator. St. Seachnall was the 2nd Archbishop of Armagh, taking over from St. Patrick. On our recent parish pilgrimage to Armagh we learnt about St. Seachnall of Dunshaughlin. On Wednesday week, Ashbourne Pastoral Council will host pastoral council members from across the Pastoral Area.

Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation or Triumph of the Holy Cross is celebrated tomorrow, Monday, the 14th of September. It honours the Cross of Christ as an instrument made sacred by the Lord's sacrifice for the salvation. When we honour or exalt the Cross of Christ, we are basically acknowledging Christ Himself, who is the source of our eternal salvation. The Lord himself proclaims in John 12:32 that "when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself". The cruelty of the Cross, therefore, is not what is exalted in this feast, but the love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross. This feast dates back to the 4th century when on 13 September 335 the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated, and a day after, the true Cross of Calvary which had earlier been discovered by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn celebration. Donaghmore Church has a beautiful large cross on its side wall while Ashbourne Church has a large crucifix hanging up high in front of the altar. A new processional cross is being made using an old crucifix. When not in use, it will be positioned in the centre of the newly restored Ashbourne Church porch. This processional cross will be used at Sunday masses, funerals and solemn liturgies.



Final Call Out To Any New Altar Servers



Ashbourne parish is recruiting Altar Servers. Are you a young person who participates at Mass and receives regularly the sacrament of Holy Communion? 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. New servers are due to begin their ministry in the coming weeks. Fr. Jinse looks after the servers and will be organising training for new servers in the coming days. We thank parents bringing their children to Mass and doing their best to pass on the precious gift of faith.

After School Sacramental Program 2026-2027

The After School Parish Sacramental Program for the coming year will begin on Tuesday and Wednesday week (September 22nd and 23rd). In recent days Kay Churm contacted by email the parents who have registered their children for this year's program. Class allocation and the class timetable has now been published, and registration is coming to an end. We thank Kay, and the four teachers who are preparing to deliver the program. We thank also our office staff of Sinead and Janice for the work that they are doing in drawing up the class lists and making sure that all the relevant paperwork has been received before classes begin.



Works on Church Kerbing



Works began in recent days on putting in kerbing along the lawn perimeter of Ashbourne Church. This edging is to hold in the stones around the church for better drainage in wet weather, and it also will make it easier for cutting the grass in the church vicinity.

2nd Collection Next Weekend

Next Sunday a second collection will take place at our Masses for our parish's contribution to the Fleming Fund which supports retired and sick priests in the Diocese of Meath. This collection takes place at this time in all parishes across the diocese. Last Sunday's collection total amounts were as follows: Offertory Collection: €1265; Envelope/Parish Development Fund: €1840; Shrines: €1020. Gratitude is expressed to all those who generously give to our parish, and the building of our Lord's kingdom. *Mile buíochas.*



Suaimhneas Síoraí

We pray for our parishioners whose funerals took place in recent days in Ashbourne Church. We pray for the repose of Terry Houlihan, Deerpark, whose funeral took place on Saturday morning. We pray also for Veronica Wilkins, Brindley Park Crescent, whose funeral mass took place on Tuesday. Our parish extends sympathy to their families and friends at this time. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace. Amen.

"For our sake Christ offered himself to the Father upon the altar of the Cross."

(St. Thomas Beckett, bishop 1118-1170 AD)

