



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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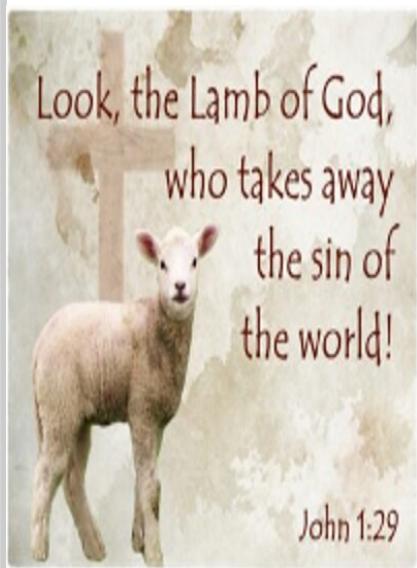
Website: ashbourneparish.ie

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Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcath,

2nd Sunday of Year A

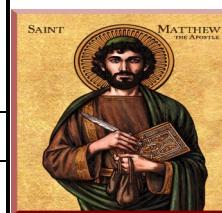
18th January 2026



Mass Intentions

Saturday 17th	7pm	Gemma Coughlan; Ann Grimes; Mary and John Farrell; John Fitzpatrick <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>
Sunday 18th	9am	Anne Brennan
Donaghmore	10am	Christo, Kitty, Ollie and deceased members of the Kavanagh Family
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Séan Bruton, The Rath (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	Christopher Tormey
Monday 19th	10am	Joan, Seamus and Joseph Lyons
Tuesday 20th	10am	Andrea Cullen Flemming
Wednesday 21st	10am	Angie and Paddy Foy
Thursday 22nd	10am	Darren MaGuire
Friday 23rd	10am	Jim and Maureen Mullen
Saturday 24th	7pm	Mattie Gorman; Elizabeth McCabe; Mairéad Loughnane; Geraldine Deacon
Sunday 25th	9am	People of the Parish
Donaghmore	10am	Patricia Murphy, Fleenstown (Month's Mind) Donal O'Loingsigh
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Philomena Hendrick
Week of Prayer For Christian Unity Begins	12.30pm	People of the Parish Catholic Schools Week Begins

Ordinary Time in the Church Year



It is ordinary time in the church year and will remain so until the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on February 18th. The gospel or 'good news' read predominantly at Sunday Mass this year is that which St. Matthew wrote and is referred to as the first gospel or the gospel of Year A. Green Vestments are worn during Ordinary Time and the green plants in front of the altar in Ashbourne remind us that we are all asked to pray that we will grow in our loving relationship with Jesus.

Confirmation Preparatory Mass Number 3

The third of the four 'Confirming our Children' preparatory masses for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in Ashbourne Church this weekend. As part of the Confirmation Rite with Bishop Tom the children receive a saint's name. This is a name that the children have themselves chosen. For Masses this Sunday the children bring to Mass their project on their saint's name. To highlight the children's work and to raise awareness of the call for all of us to be saints we reflect on the call to sainthood and pray the 'Litany of the Saints'.



Catholic Schools Week 2026



Catholic Schools Week is celebrated in schools and parishes across Ireland from today. This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is 'Walking Together in Faith & Love'. During Catholic Schools Week families, parishes and schools participate in a week of celebration reflecting on the work of Catholic Schools. In Ashbourne we have three schools that are under Catholic patronage. Among events organised the children in fifth class in St. Declan's, St. Mary's and Gaelscoil na Cille are having their annual pilgrim walk in celebration of their Catholic ethos on Tuesday morning. We wish all involved a 'Buen Camino', a 'Happy Walk with the Lord'.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Postures During Mass

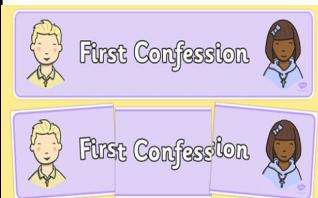
As announced last weekend, for the next three weeks of January, in this newsletter we will explain the postures we adopt at Mass. In writing and publishing these words, the aim of the Parish Pastoral Council, is to encourage reflection and discussion on how we pray the Mass with our bodies, hearts and minds with as much 'intentionality' as possible. Our postures enable us to participate more fully in the Eucharist and help us express our prayer in different ways at different moments. The way we sit, stand and kneel help us to pray together as one family in Christ. Sometimes we stand, sit or kneel without knowledge of the reasoning behind the postures. This week we explain what we do in standing at Mass, next week we look at why and when we sit and on the third weekend we will look at what we do when we kneel.

Standing is a sign of respect and readiness - we stand before God as His redeemed people. It's also the posture of the Resurrection reminding us that we share Christ's victory over death.

In Ashbourne and Donaghmore on a Sunday we stand for the Introductory Rites, the Acclamation before the Gospel, the Gospel, the Creed, Prayer of the Faithful. We stand also when the priest says the Offertory Prayer: 'Pray, brothers and sisters that our sacrifice.... We stand for the Our Father, Prayer after Communion and the Final Blessing before the Dismissal.



First Confession 2026



for the second sacrament of the Church. First Confession will take place in Ashbourne Church on the three following Saturdays of the Lenten season - March 7th, 21st and 28th.

Thanks to Those Who Run Our Catholic Schools

As CSW takes place we thank the Boards of Management in the schools for the work that they do. We thank also the principals, staff, parents and pupils for the part that they play in building Catholic Schools that serve our parish faith community.



Planning a Marriage This New Year

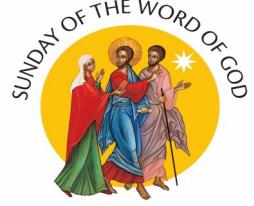
Are you getting married in 2026? As Catholics we promote the sacramentality of marriage, and we encourage couples free to get married, to do so in the Church.

Anyone with a wedding booked with us should make sure that they have the necessary paperwork completed at an early opportunity. Full details and guidelines for the celebration of marriage are available on our parish website, ashbourneparish.ie. If you have any queries please contact the Parish Office and we will be glad to help.

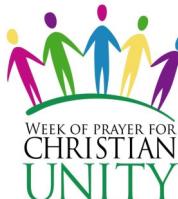


'Word of God Sunday'

Five years ago our late Holy Father Pope Francis asked that all parishes celebrate 'Word of God' Sunday on the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. In doing so, we are asked as Catholics to reflect on the importance of the 'Word of God' to Christians. Next Sunday as part of Christian Unity week we will highlight the role of our sacred book. Each Sunday the Bible is read in Christian Churches and we as followers of Jesus are asked to let the Word continually speak to us.



Christian Unity Week January 18th - 25th



Today begins a week of prayer for unity among all Christian believers. Our Holy Father, Pope Leo, constantly prays for a more united world and for greater unity among Christians. Last Autumn Pope Leo met and prayed with King Charles, head of the Anglican Church. In Turkey he prayed with and discussed greater unity with Patriarch Bartholomew 1, the leader of the world's orthodox Christians. Each year

during this week in the month of January Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation among all denominations. Today in Ireland Catholics, Church of Ireland members, Methodists, Presbyterians and Evangelicals emphasize the person of Christ at the heart of their lives. As part of our parish contribution to this call for prayer, on Sunday next, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Eucharistic Prayer for Unity among Christians will be prayed at all Masses in Ashbourne and Donaghmore.

Second Collection at Mass Today

After Holy Communion today there is a collection to contribute towards the parish contribution to the Diocesan Cess which amounts annually to €9,000. The money collected in our parish and across parishes in Meath for this purpose supports the work of church welfare agencies including Accord Catholic Marriage care, prison chaplaincy, communications office, the National Safeguarding Board, and the Council for Immigrant and Emigrant Support. This is one of six second 'restricted collections' that take place annually in our parish.



Distributors Needed



The Parish Financial Statement for 2025 is being prepared at this time and the new envelope boxes are ready for distribution to homes who use them as a means of supporting our parish. Can you help distribute a small number of the envelope boxes in the area where you live? We thank parishioners who help to distribute the boxes and drop a letter with a financial update to those using this means of contributing to our parish. Last Sunday's Collection Totals Plate €2190.00; Shrines €970.00; Development Fund €1145.00. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish and we thank all those making their annual offering this New Year.

Rest in Peace

We pray for our parishioners John Wilson of Johnswood Drive and Charles Bobbott of Fleenstown whose funeral Masses took place in the past few days in our parish. We also pray for Joe Blake, sister of Kathleen Kelly Baltrasna. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

