



ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Priests of the Parish

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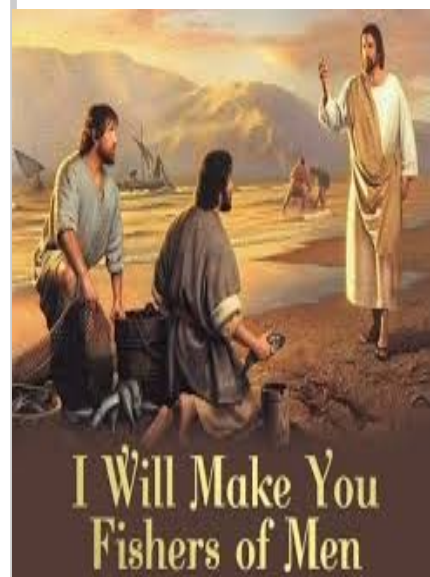
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*Ashbourne is Part of the Meath Diocesan
Pastoral Area of Ratoath, Curraha, Ardcaith,
Dunshauglin and Skyrne*

3rd Sunday of Year A

25 January 2026



Mass Intentions

Saturday 24th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	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
	12.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 26th	10am	John and Annie Fitzsimons
Tuesday 27th	10am	People of the Parish
Wednesday 28th	10am	Tom Harris
Thursday 29th	10am	Patricia O'Meara
Friday 30th	10am	Maud, Bertie and Christie McDermott
Saturday 31st <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Denis McElligott; Séan, Mary and Paul Battersby; Paul Kelly; Jennie, Jack, Kit, John and Jimmy Morgan and deceased family members
Sunday 1st Feb	9am	Angela Farrell
Donaghmore	10am	Paul Grimes
Hospitality in the Parish Centre after Mass	11am	Jean Hallinan, Baltrasna (Month's Mind)
	12.30pm	People of the Parish

Word of God Sunday



Today is 'Word of God Sunday'. We reflect on the importance of the 'Word of God'. Each Sunday the Bible is read in Christian Churches and we as followers of Jesus are asked to let the Word speak to us. 'Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the words of Sacred Scripture. If we hear his voice and open the doors of our minds and hearts then he will enter our lives and remain ever with us.' *Pope Francis*

Ministers of the Word

The parish is grateful to all who give service as a Reader of the Word of God. Ashbourne-Donaghmore Parish has a total of thirty-five parishioners involved as Ministers of the Word. Would you be willing to become a reader in our parish? If you could help us deliver this important lay ministry the Parish Office would be delighted to hear from you.



Christian Unity Week Ends Today

'There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling' (Ephesians 4:4)



Each year during January, leading up to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25th, Christians unite to pray and promote greater co-operation between Christians of all denominations. This year the theme is based on the biblical text 'one Spirit and one Hope' for Unity for all churches. The text was chosen by members of the Apostolic Church in Armenia which traces their Christianity back to the apostles and in 301 AD was the first nation to adopt Christianity as its state religion. In the past in our country there was much emphasis on difference rather than on similarities and regrettably Christians often did not share and celebrate their common vision. We have all heard stories of how deep divisions were and some still carry hurt and pain. Today thankfully Catholics, Church of Ireland members, Methodists and Presbyterians emphasize the person of Christ at the heart of their lives. Today at all our Masses we pray the Eucharistic Prayer for Christian Unity.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm



Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm

Postures During Mass

As part of a three week explanation by the Parish Pastoral Council of the postures we adopt at Sunday Mass this week we explain what happens when we sit down in the pew.

Sitting is a posture of attentive listening and receptivity. We sit to receive and hear God's Word and to meditate on it. We listen to God speaking to us. It shows that we are ready to be taught and nourished by the Word before responding in prayer and action. At Sunday Mass we are seated for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading. We sit for the Preparation and Offering of the Gifts (Offertory). We sit also for the Notices before the Final Blessing and Dismissal. Next weekend we will lastly look at what we do when we kneel.



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. 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 and the mountain basilica of Rocamadour. The seven day pilgrimage costs €1395 and is organised by pilgrim operator Joe Walsh Tours. More details are on the JWT website or by phoning (01) 2410800. This will be Fr. Michael's first time to visit Lourdes and he is delighted that some parishioners hope to join him.



Ideas for Lent 2026

Lent begins in three weeks time. If anyone has any ideas for the way we might as a parish celebrate this year's sacred season please let us know through the Parish Office.



On the Bible and Scripture Did You Know?



About 50 bibles are sold every minute. An acronym for the word Bible is 'Best Information Before Leaving Earth'. St Jerome, the man who translated the bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, famously said 'Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ'. St. Augustine said as he read the two testaments of the Bible that they are so closely interrelated with each other that 'The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed'.

Mobile Phone Vs Bible

What would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses and pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to think about ...

Where is my Bible?

Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because our Lord in heaven has already paid the bill ...



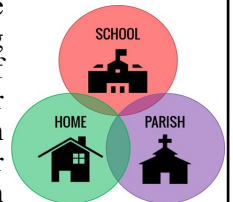
Celebrating the Sacraments



Confirmation: There will be two ceremonies led by Bishop Tom on Saturday, 28 February at 11am and 2pm. **1st Holy Communion Weekends** On Saturday the 9th, 16th and 23rd of May children will receive Holy communion with their families as guests of honour at the Sunday Mass. **1st Confession:** From 4 to 6pm on Saturdays March 7, 21, 28 when parents bring their children to the sacrament that celebrates the importance of forgiveness.

Request for Sacraments

All sacraments for children must be requested by a parent or next of kin taking responsibility for the handing on of faith. If you are a parent who wish to prepare your child for baptism, confession, communion or confirmation you are reminded that your child must be registered with the Parish Office. Just because a child is in a certain class in a school presumption of a sacrament is never made without parental consent and commitment to the Christian faith. At this time Catholic parents with children in first class in our parish schools are invited to put their child forward for reception of the sacrament of confession.



2026 Envelope Boxes Are Ready



The new envelope boxes that start next weekend are ready for distribution or collection. Boxes and the accompanying financial letter can be collected from the Parish Office and, where possible, are to be delivered this week to parishioners using this means of supporting our parish. If you are new to our faith community or wish to use this means of supporting us please contact Sinead or Janice in the Parish Office. Can you help distribute the envelope boxes in your area of the parish? We need help with the distribution of the boxes and drop a letter with a financial update to parishioners using this means of contributing to our parish. If you have helped us before or can help us distribute the boxes over the next few days please drop in to the Parish Office.

Annual Update as the Financial Year Ends

Next weekend at Masses members of our Parish Finance Committee will brief members of our faith communities in Ashbourne and Donaghmore on issues to do with finance in our parish. Gratitude will be expressed for income received last year and plans for expenditure in 2026 will be outlined. The parish is grateful to the members of the finance committee who serve their parish and help ensure that there is good financial governance and accountability around all monies donated to our parish. We thank parishioners for their support and the stewards who help with the collections in the church Last Sunday's Collection Totals Plate €1685.00; Shrines €1020.00; Development Fund €1170.00; Diocesan Cess €1620. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish and we thank all those making a financial contribution to sustain and support our parish.



Finance Committee

Praying for the Faithful Departed

We pray for Johnny May and Rita Stewart whose funeral Masses took place this week. We extend sympathy to their grieving families. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

