



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*

3rd Sunday Easter A

19 April 2026



‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’ *Luke 24: 32*

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 18th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Pat Doherty; Frank and Patricia McHutcheon; Bobby Eager (Jnr); Maureen, John and Paul Byrne; Patrick Bruton; Boylan and Garvey families; Michael White; Hughie Kelly
Sunday 19th	9am	Oliver and Mary Walsh
Donaghmore	10am	Mortimer, Catherine and Mary O’Sullivan
	11am	Frances Morgan, Milltown (Month’s Mind)
	12.30pm	Margaret Andrews, Castle Close (Month’s Mind)
Monday 20th	10am	Anthony Laffey
Tuesday 21st	10am	John and Elizabeth Dunne
Wednesday 22nd	10am	People of the Parish
Thursday 23rd	10am	Mass is Offered for the Petitions and Intercessions from the Petition Box
Friday 24th	10am	People of the Parish
Saturday 25th <i>Shared Mass Intentions</i>	7pm	Carmel Cawley; Jim and Kathleen Flanagan and deceased members of the Flanagan and Brennan families; Edmund and Jimmy O’Donnell
Sunday 26th	9am	Deceased members of the McLoughlin and Tierney families
Donaghmore	10am	Kathleen Tormey, Joey and Terry Tormey; Phyllis and Patrick Toomey
	11am	Matthew Geoghegan, Finglas (1st Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Marie McManus and Michael Sheedy

The Emmaus story is one of the best - crafted in the gospels with many important themes: Jerusalem as the place where God’s plan is accomplished; the disciples’ journey from bewilderment to faith; the fulfilment of scripture; the elements of the early preaching and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In the light of this wonderful biblical story we reflect on how Christ walks with us on the road of life.

A Prayer For Easter Eyes *by William H Sadler*



‘My Lord, Jesus, You have risen to new life! Give me new eyes with which to recognise your presence in the world around me. Sharpen my vision so that I can see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of your grace. Brighten my view of the world with renewed hope in the coming of your kingdom. Soften my gaze so that I may view others with the kind of tenderness and compassion you showed to so many. May each day of this Easter season provide glimpses of your glory. In your sacred name I pray. Amen.’

Restoration Work Begins on Ashbourne Church



On Monday last, work began on repair of the exterior of the six large windows in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In addition to their restoration, the windows will be treated and painted. Works will then begin on the enhancement of the entrance porch of the Church. Works were planned eight years ago and the Parish Finance Committee are glad to be in a position to now progress these works. The painting of the doors and porch area of the church will mean that for a number of weeks, for safety reasons, access to the church will be restricted to one main door. Signage will be in place as to which door is in use. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank parishioners for their co-operation and support of the Parish Development Fund which allows for these works to proceed.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 10.30am to 8pm Confessions this Saturday 5pm to 6pm.

Updating Our Parish Faith History



Brendan O Reilly has volunteered to gather information on the priests and religious that are, or were native, to our parish. In the faith history of the Jubilee Year 2000 it is noted that there were five priests from the Ashbourne and Donaghmore area. The priests listed are Fr Terence Toner, Fr Thomas Rafferty, Fr Patrick Murray, Fr Terence Smith and Fr Patrick Twomey. Does anyone know is there anyone missing from this list? Fr. Mortimer Loftus is buried in Donaghmore Cemetery and Mgrs. M McNulty in Ashbourne Cemetery. Are any family members living who can tell us their story? The faith history lists the following sisters in religious life Sr Eilis and Bridget Long, Sr Celia Mulvany and Sr Monica Sweeney. Can anyone shed any light on any of these men or women who gave some of their life to this cause? Brendan hopes to contact family members of the priests and religious if we are provided with details so that we can obtain details of their life for our parish history. Ideally we would like to gather some photographs and information on the ministry of the priest or religious.

Anointing of the Sick with Easter Oil

The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be part of the 10am Mass on Wednesday morning, April 29th, the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena. Every two months our parish offers the opportunity for parishioners to receive this sacrament. This will be the first time the new oil of holy anointing will be used in our parish since it was blessed by Bishop Tom at the Chrism Mass. As followers of Jesus, we recall how Jesus was close to the sick, and as Christians we always pray for those who are sick, infirm and in need of physical, mental or spiritual healing.



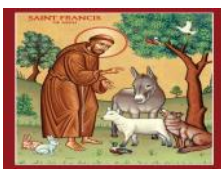
Donaghmore Cemetery Upkeep

Last year the Parish Finance Committee and the families with loved ones buried in Ashbourne Church Cemetery worked together to enhance the cemetery and ensure its longevity. This year the Parish Finance Committee are investing time and effort in progressing matters in Donaghmore Cemetery. With Cemetery devotions just over a month away rubbish needs to be removed from along the walls and in front of the crucifix. We remind people not to leave the rubbish from their graves thrown around the cemetery. Fr. Michael invites those with loved ones interred to join him in a community hour in the coming weeks. He is currently forming a committee to help ensure the cemetery is maintained to a high standard going forward. Thank you to the volunteers who have put themselves forward so far.



Meath Diocesan Pilgrimage to Padua and Assisi

Celebrating the Franciscan Jubilee Year (1226-2026), Bishop Tom Deenihan will lead a diocesan pilgrimage to Padua and Assisi on 26th September for 5 nights. Pilgrims will walk in the footsteps of St. Clare and St. Francis, visiting the resting place of the great saints, among them St. Carlo Acutis. The pilgrimage includes direct flights, transfers and tours, accommodation and half board. Cost €1,335. Bookings and enquiries JWT Travel Tel 01 2410800. A more detailed day-to-day itinerary is available on www.dioceseofmeath.ie/pilgrimage-way.



Pope Leo - A Missionary of Peace



Pope Leo continues to ask Catholics to make a stand for peace. He asks us to never give up advocating and praying for peace and dialogue in a world deeply impacted by the scars and divisions of war. Our holy father says 'God's heart is torn apart by wars, violence, injustice and lies'. Pope Leo has been highlighting peace this Easter while in Africa as part of an eleven day pilgrimage taking in Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. Also, this month of April, in preparation for Vocations Sunday, he asks us also to remember priests, especially those in crisis and finding ministry difficult. 'Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need, and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer'.

A Marian Procession To Begin the Month of May

A Marian Procession is being organised to take place at the conclusion of the Vigil Mass on the Saturday of the May Bank Holiday weekend. Weather permitting, on May 2nd, it will take place in the Church Grounds and involve the recitation of the Rosary and the crowning of the statue of Our Lady in Ashbourne Church. May is a month dedicated to Mary, and in the parish survey some parishioners requested a procession in honour of Our Lady be added to the parish calendar. The candles at Our Lady's Shrine will be in blue holders throughout the month to emphasise the role of our Lady, and the Senior Infant children in our parish schools will be learning about Our Lady in the Month of May.



Enrolment in Next Year's After School Sacramental Preparation

Enrolment by parents of their children in after school parish sacramental classes for the next academic year (2026-2027) begins on Wednesday evening, April 29th. Kay Churm, the parish co-ordinator, and our priests will hold a meeting for all interested parents in Ashbourne Church that evening at 7.30pm. Registration Forms for the Sacraments of 1st Confession, Communion and Confirmation will be available on the night. For fourteen years the parish has run these classes and we are grateful to Kay, the teachers and parents who work with the priests in providing this opportunity to pass on the faith to children. Our parish is the largest provider of such classes in the country.



2nd Collection Next Sunday for Vocations

Next Sunday is Vocations Sunday, a day when we pray for Vocations and value the lives of our priests. There is a Second Collection at Masses next Sunday which is taken up after Holy Communion and helps our diocese promote vocations and support the training of priests. Currently, six seminarians are studying for ministry as a priest in Meath diocese. Last Sunday's Collection Totals were Plate €1360; Shrine €875; Development Fund €840. Gratitude is expressed to all those who support our parish. Finally, a gentle reminder to return any outstanding Trocáire boxes or envelopes to the parish. Míle buíochas.



Rest in Easter Peace



We pray for Margaret Walshe (nee Bobbett) of Robertstown whose funeral Mass took place in Donaghmore Church on Friday. We extend sympathy to her husband and family and pray that her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen